

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

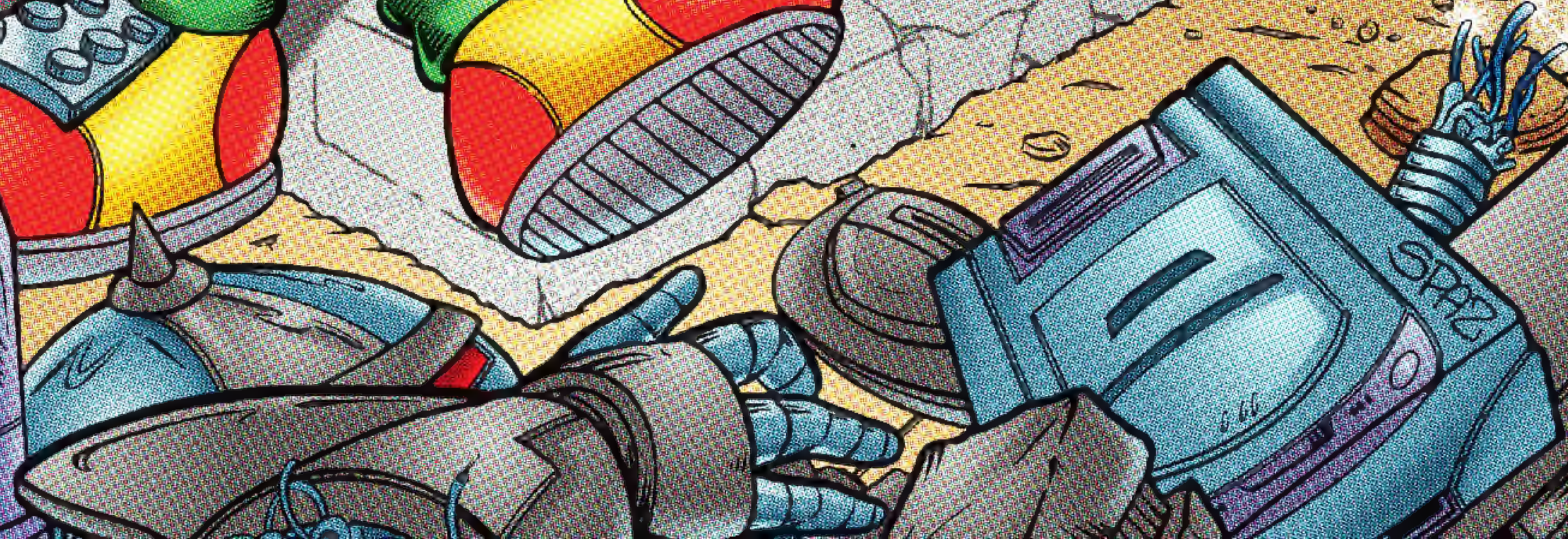
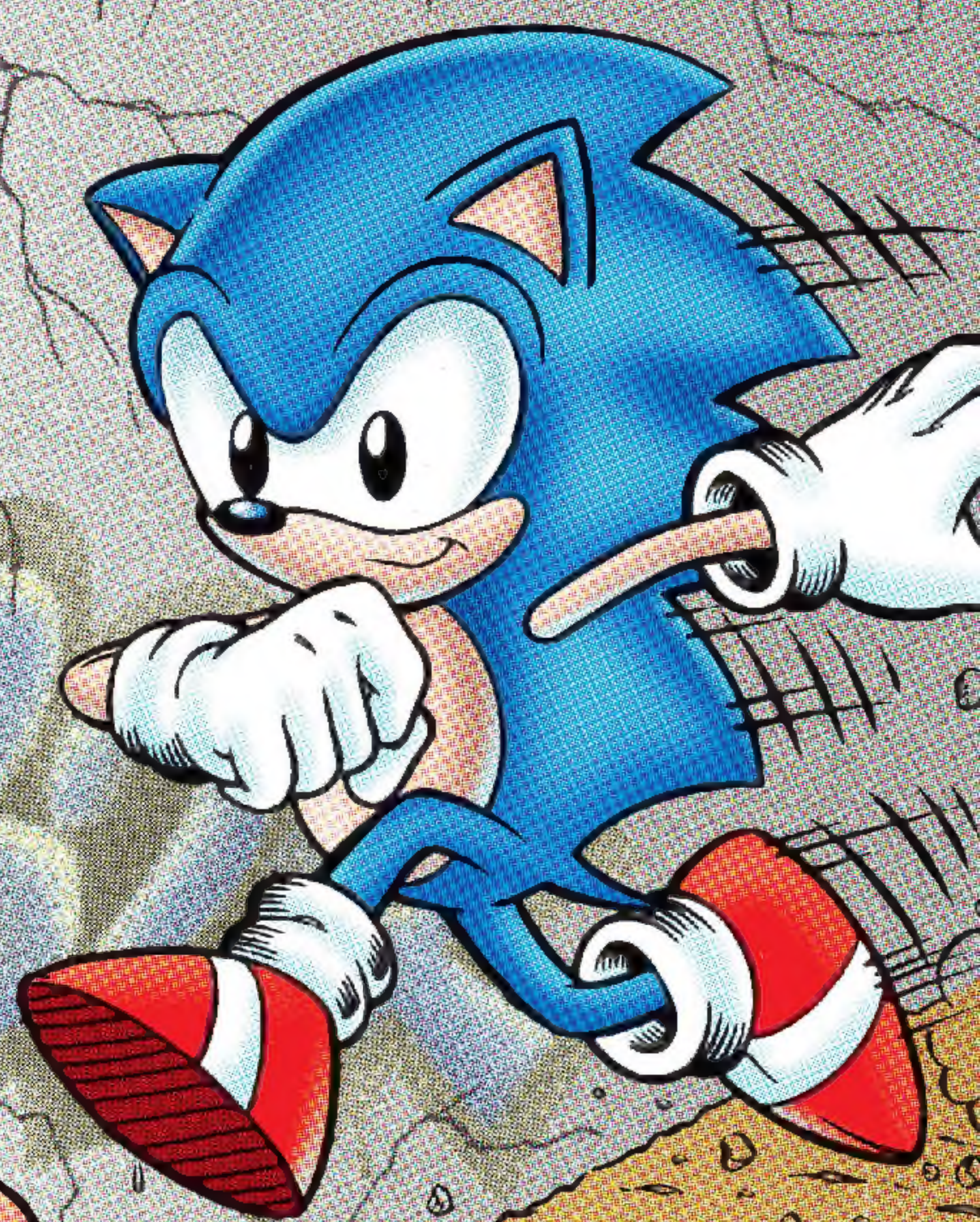


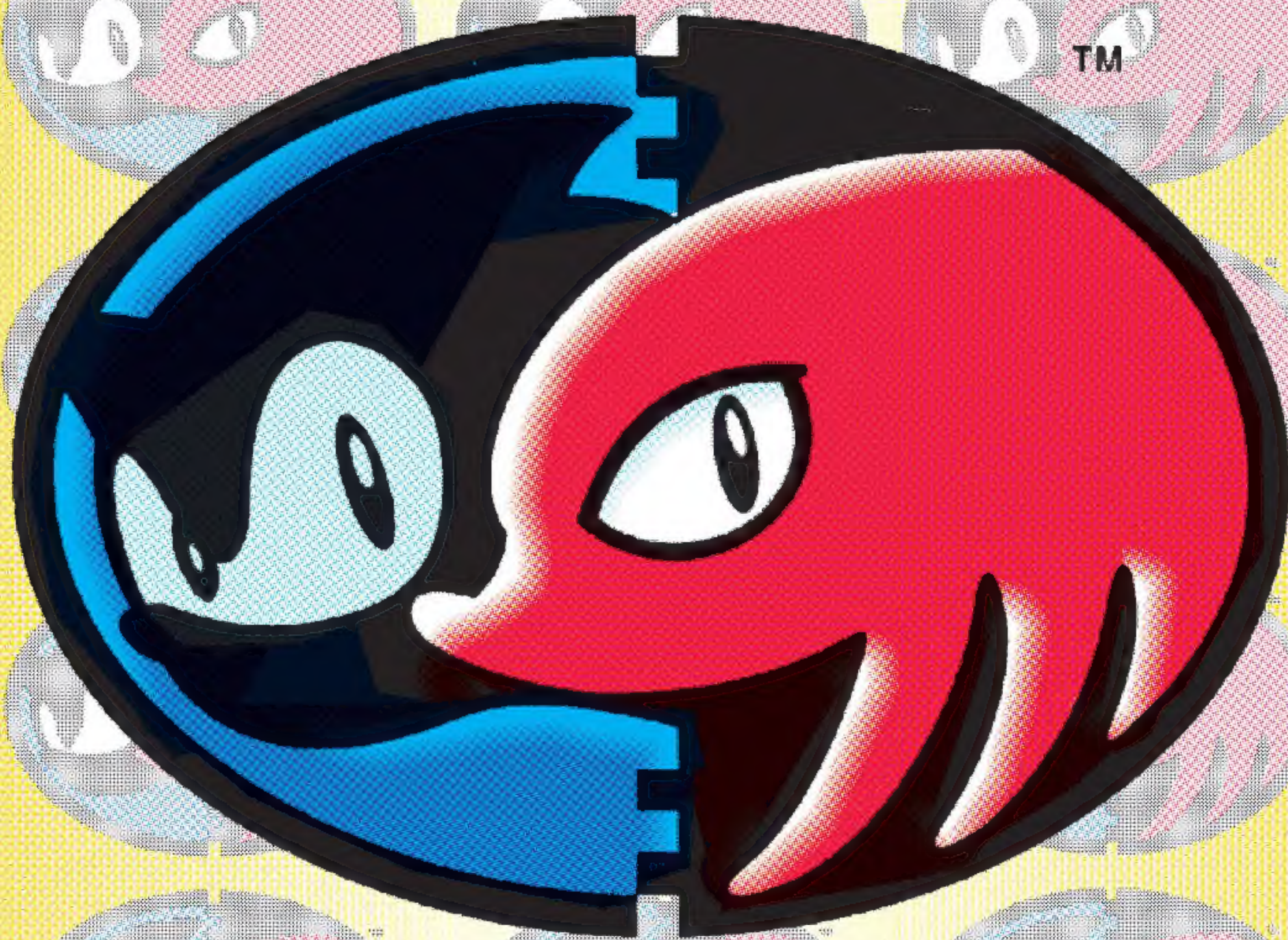
SONIC & KNUCKLES™

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SONIC & KNUCKLES

IN THIS ISSUE:

"PANIC IN THE SKY!"

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"LORD OF THE FLOATING ISLAND"

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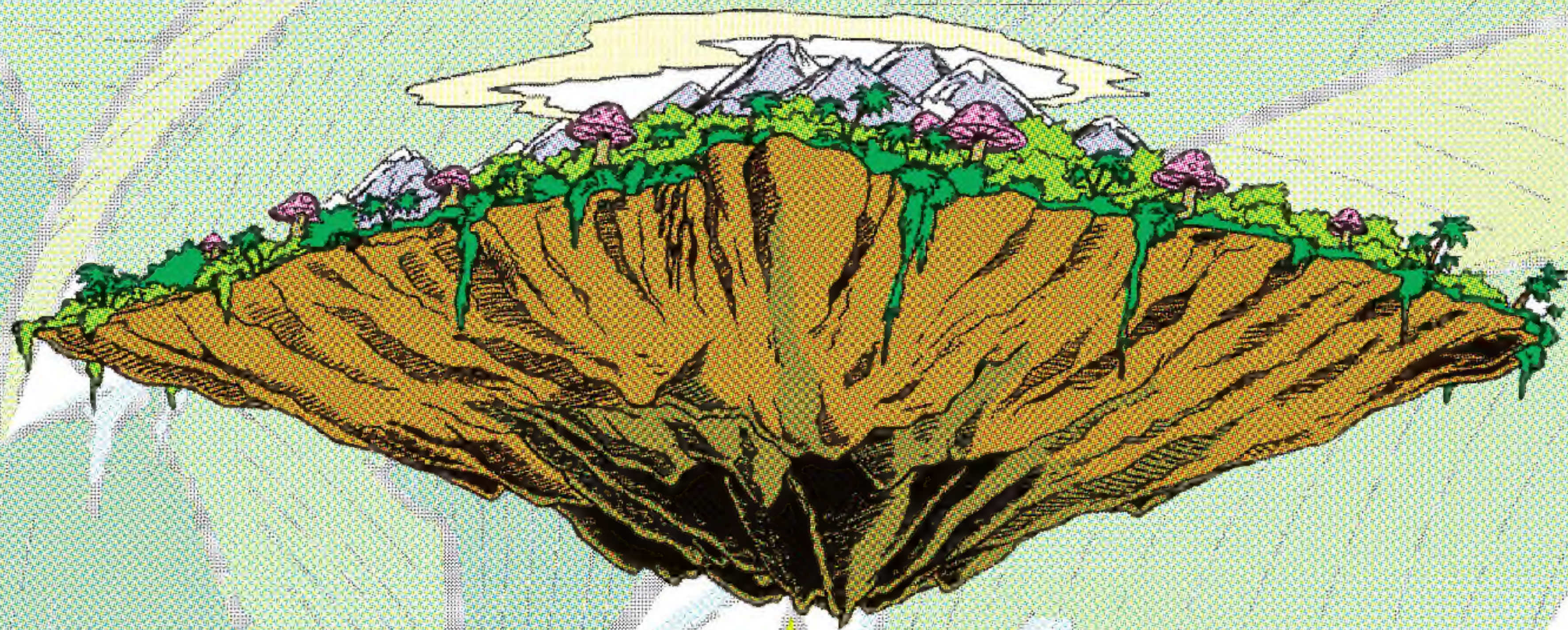
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SPECIAL THANKS to Jennifer Hunn at Sega



A land once renowned for its great beauty, the planet **Mobius** is well on its way to becoming a scarred, lifeless battlefield, thanks to the relentless acts of scientific terrorism unleashed by the evil Techno-Tyrant, **Dr. Ivo Robotnik**.

In this once-serene plane, only one great natural wonder remains untouched by this utter devastation: the mysterious **Floating Island**. A mighty continent, the island is held aloft by the energy of a rare and powerful gem known as a **Chaos Emerald**. A world unto itself with its origins lost to antiquity, this sprawling multi-zoned land mass drifts lazily above the face of Mobius, existing in harmony, yet forever apart.

As enigmatic as the Floating Island is its guardian, **Knuckles The Echidna**. Last of an ancient, noble race, his charge is to preserve the peace, and protect the island's boundaries from the encroachment and harsh realities of the "outside world" -- a task handed down generation unto generation.

Recently host to a great battle between Dr. Robotnik and the spearhead of **Knothole Village's** resistance, **Sonic The Hedgehog**, the Floating Island again stands alone as a safe haven from the war that rages unchecked, below.

But for how long?



PROLOGUE:

THE WESTERN COAST OF
THE GREAT CONTINENT.

12:17 PM

THOUGH PRONE TO EARTH-
QUAKES, MUDSLIDES, FIRES
AND FLOODS...

... IT REMAINS ONE OF THE FEW
REGIONS ON MOBIUS TO REMAIN
UNSCARRED BY CONFLICT!

HERE, THE NATIVES CAN FROLIC
AND ROMP WITHOUT CARE!

OR AT LEAST
THEY COULD...

WHAP!

1

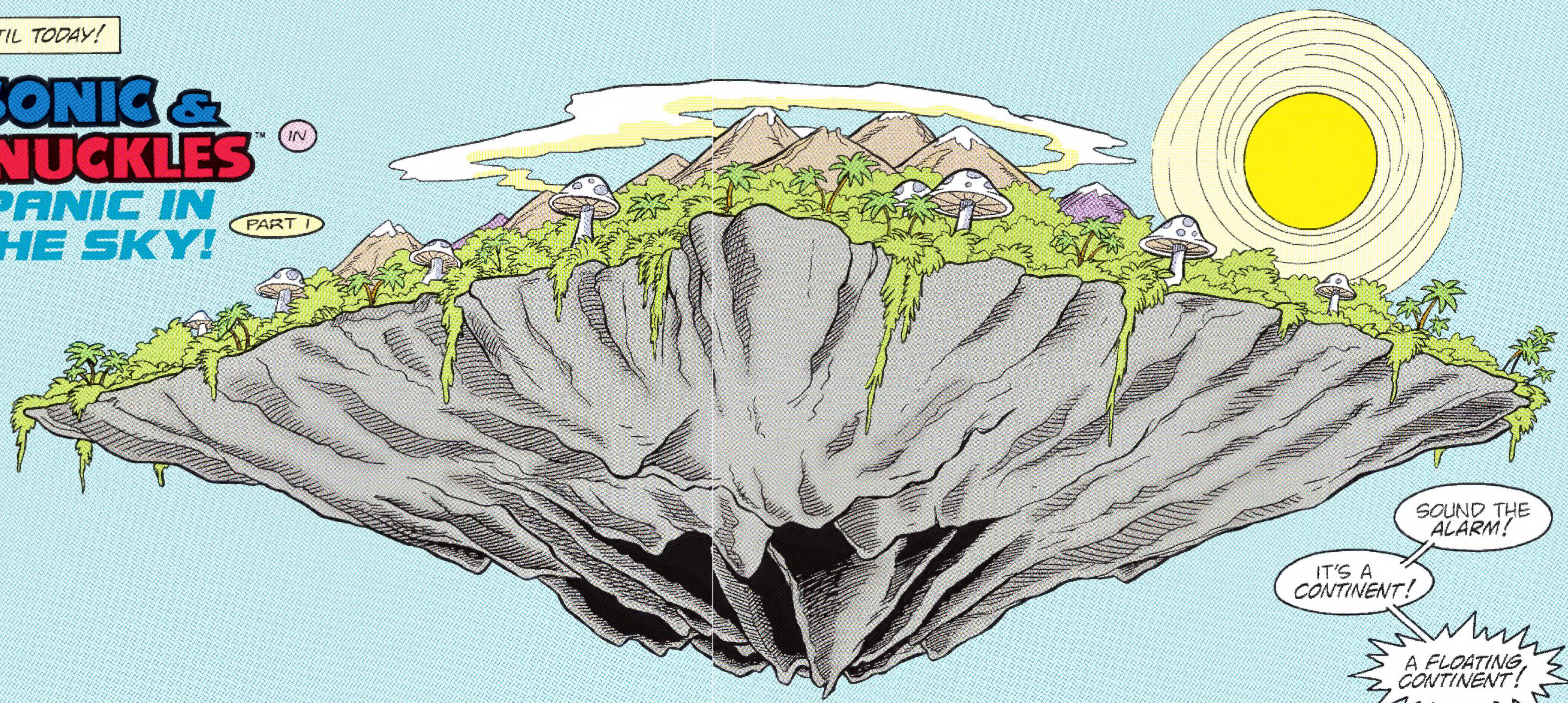
...UNTIL TODAY!

SONIC & KNUCKLES™

IN

PANIC IN THE SKY!

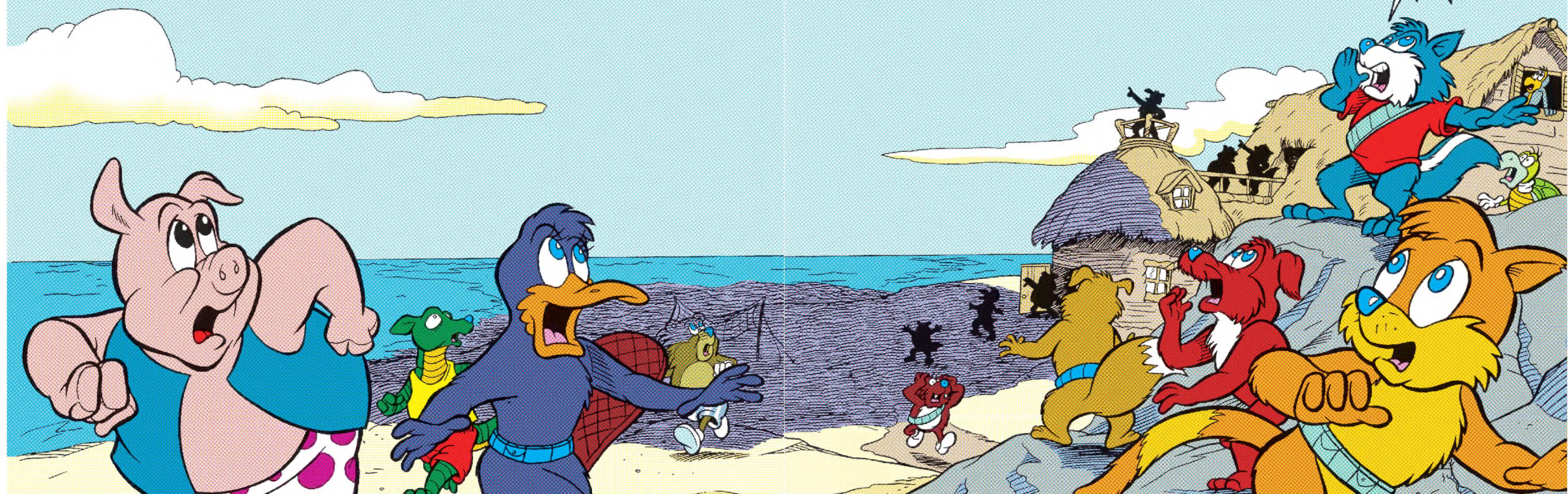
PART I

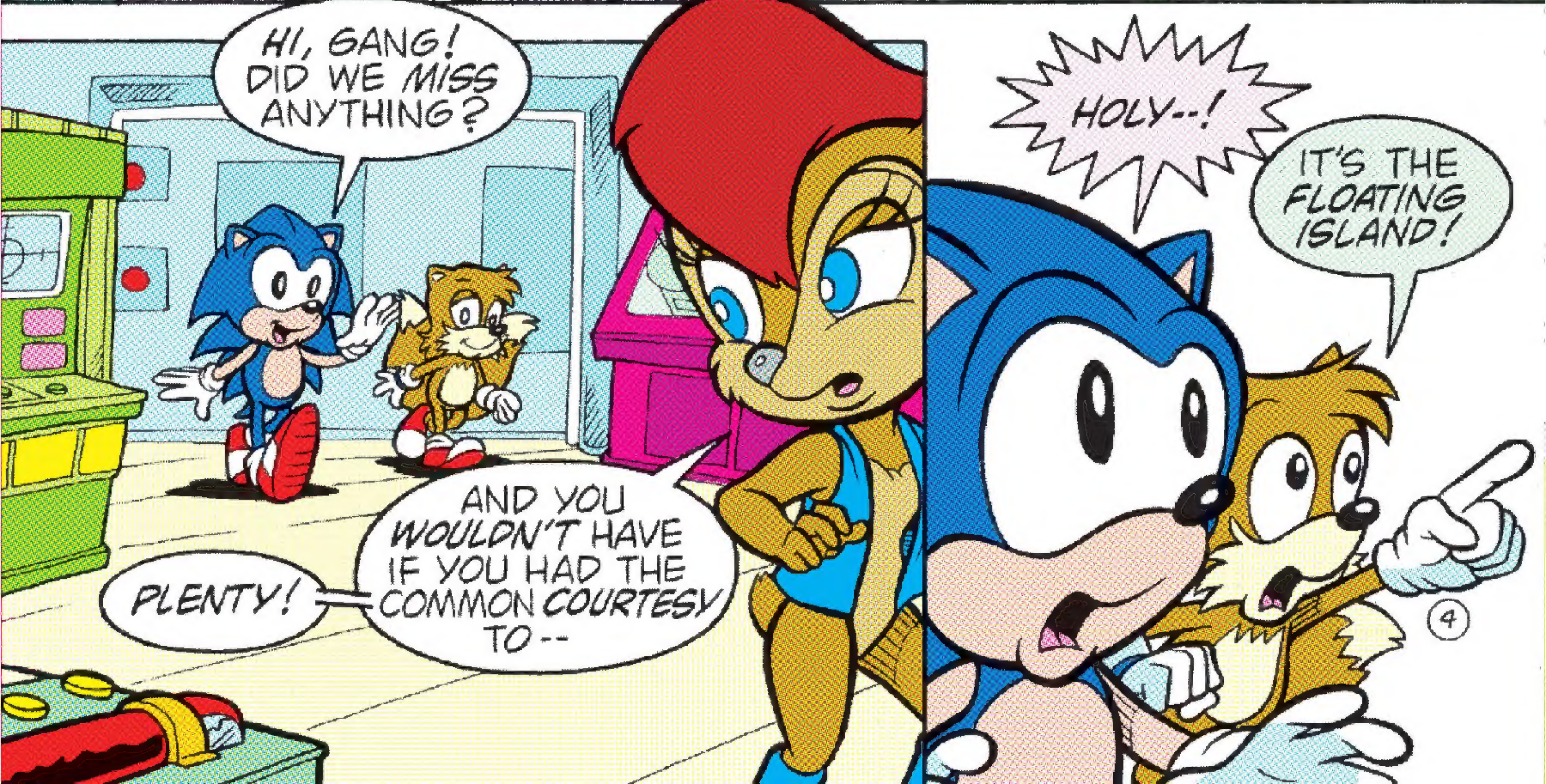
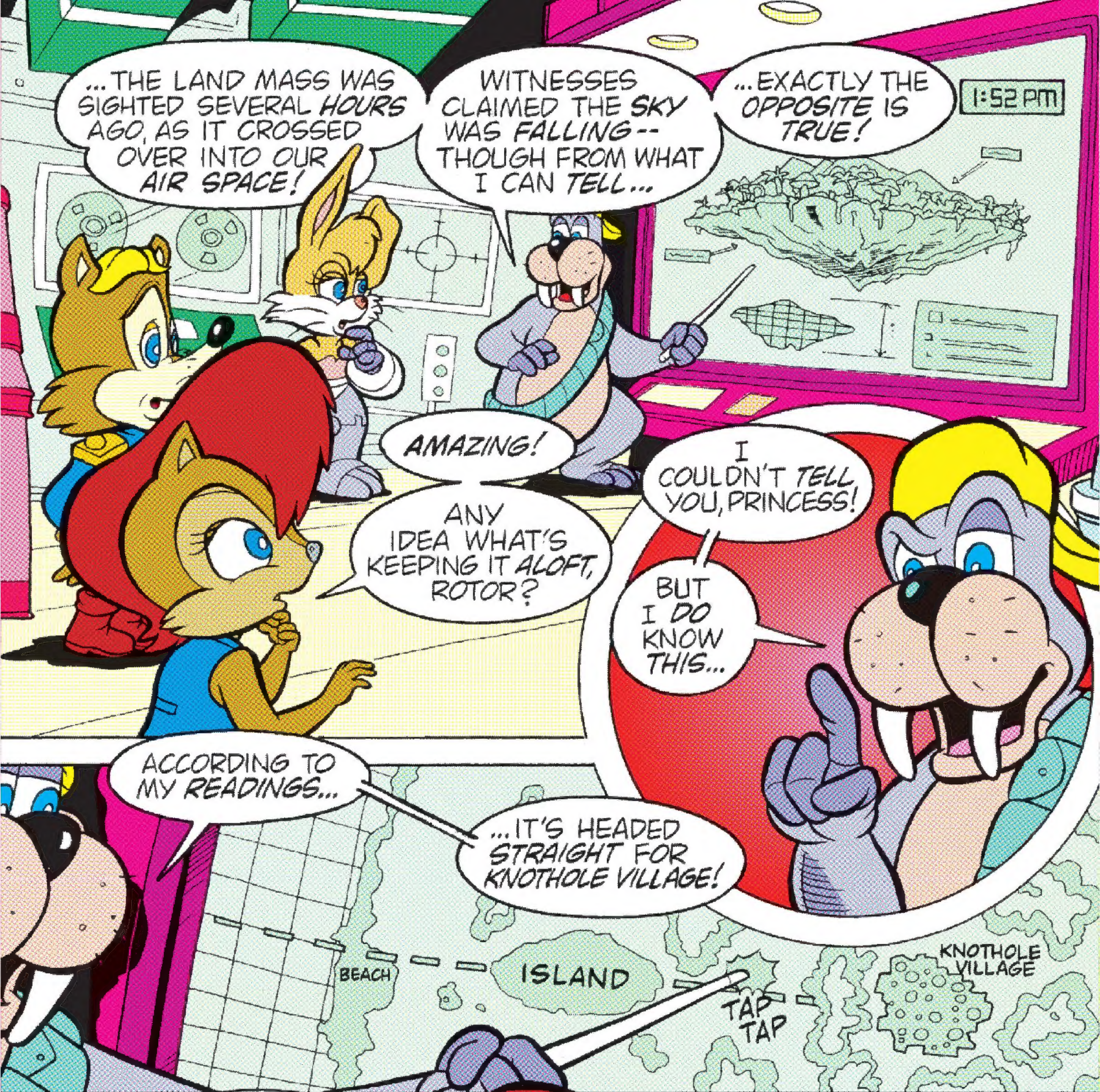


SOUND THE ALARM!

IT'S A CONTINENT!

A FLOATING CONTINENT!



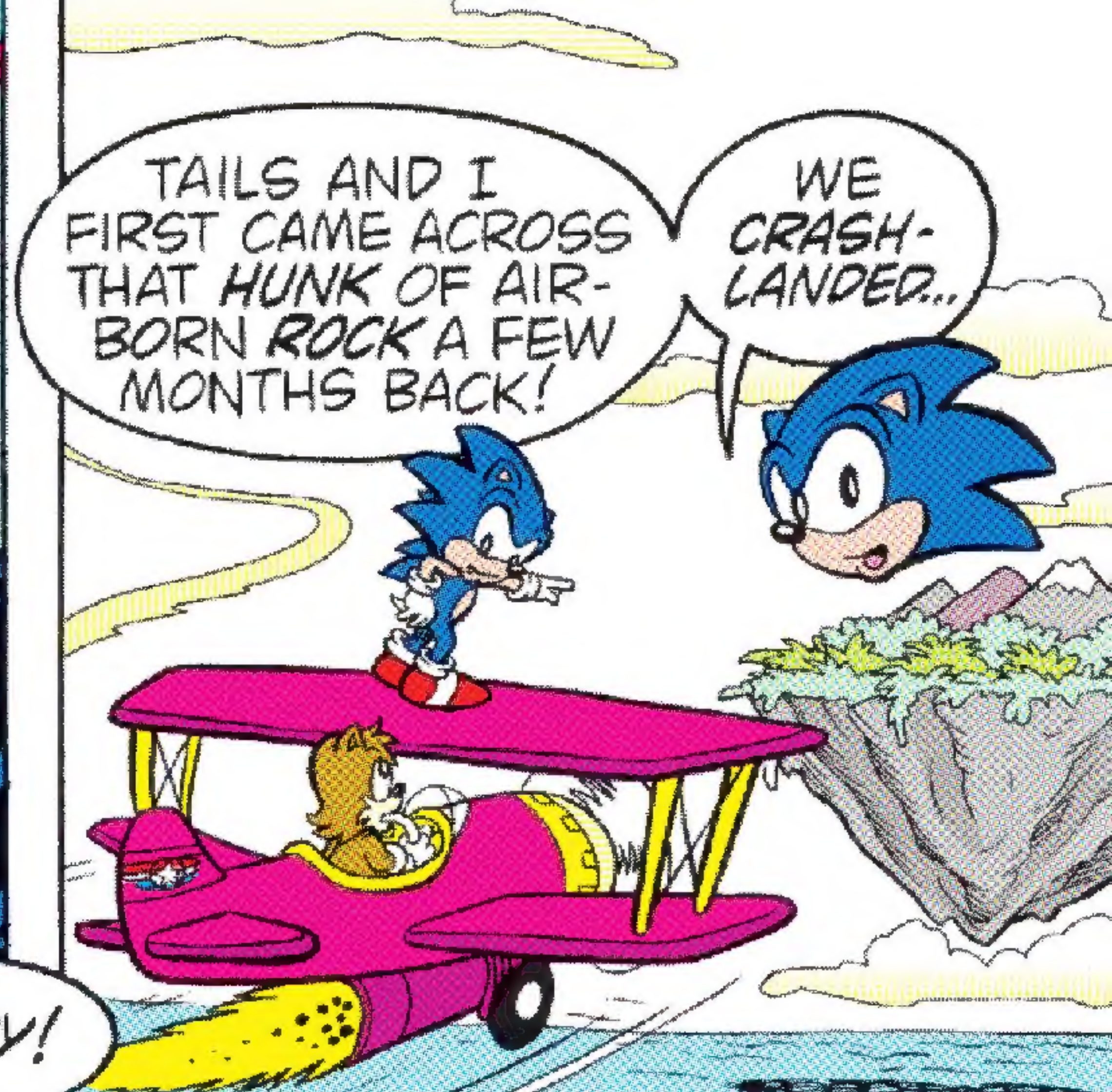




"FLOATING ISLAND"?
MIND FILLING US IN, GENIUS?

WHAT DO YOU TWO KNOW THAT THE REST OF US DON'T?

PLENTY!



TAILS AND I FIRST CAME ACROSS THAT HUNK OF AIR-BORN ROCK A FEW MONTHS BACK!

WE CRASH-LANDED...



...AND RAN AFOWL OF KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA--GUARDIAN OF THE LOCAL CHAOS EMERALD!

THAT'S WHAT KEEPS THE ISLAND AFLOAT!



TO PUT IT MILDLY, HE TOOK AN IMMEDIATE AND PROFOUND DISLIKE TO US!

BUT-- AFTER WE'D HASHED THINGS OUT A BIT...



...WE PARTED ON FRIENDLY TERMS!*

SMACK!

*REFER TO THE NOW CLASSIC SONIC #13, "THIS ISLAND HEDGE-HOG," FOR THE FULL STORY--SCOTT

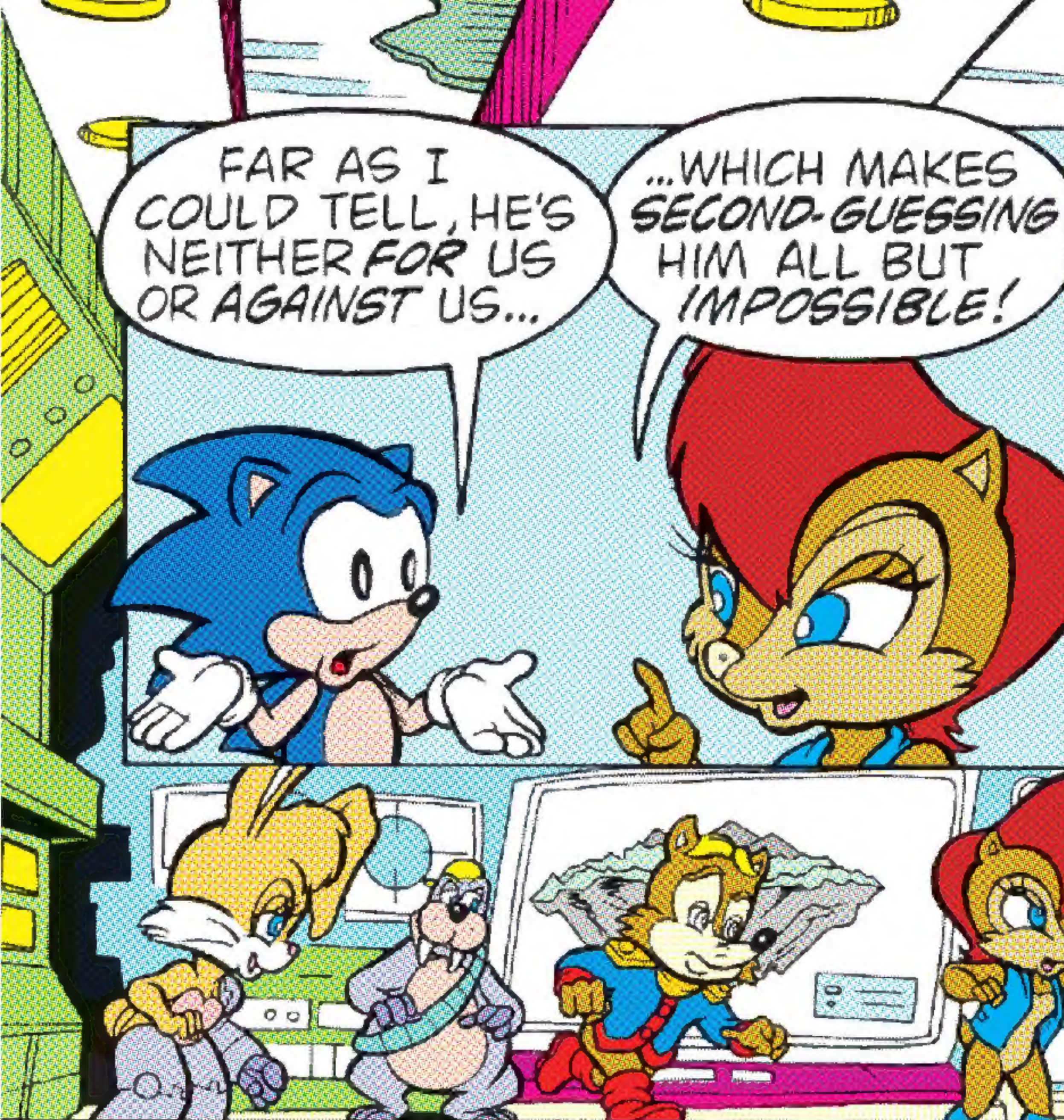


HMMM...

WHOSE SIDE IS THIS GUY REALLY ON?

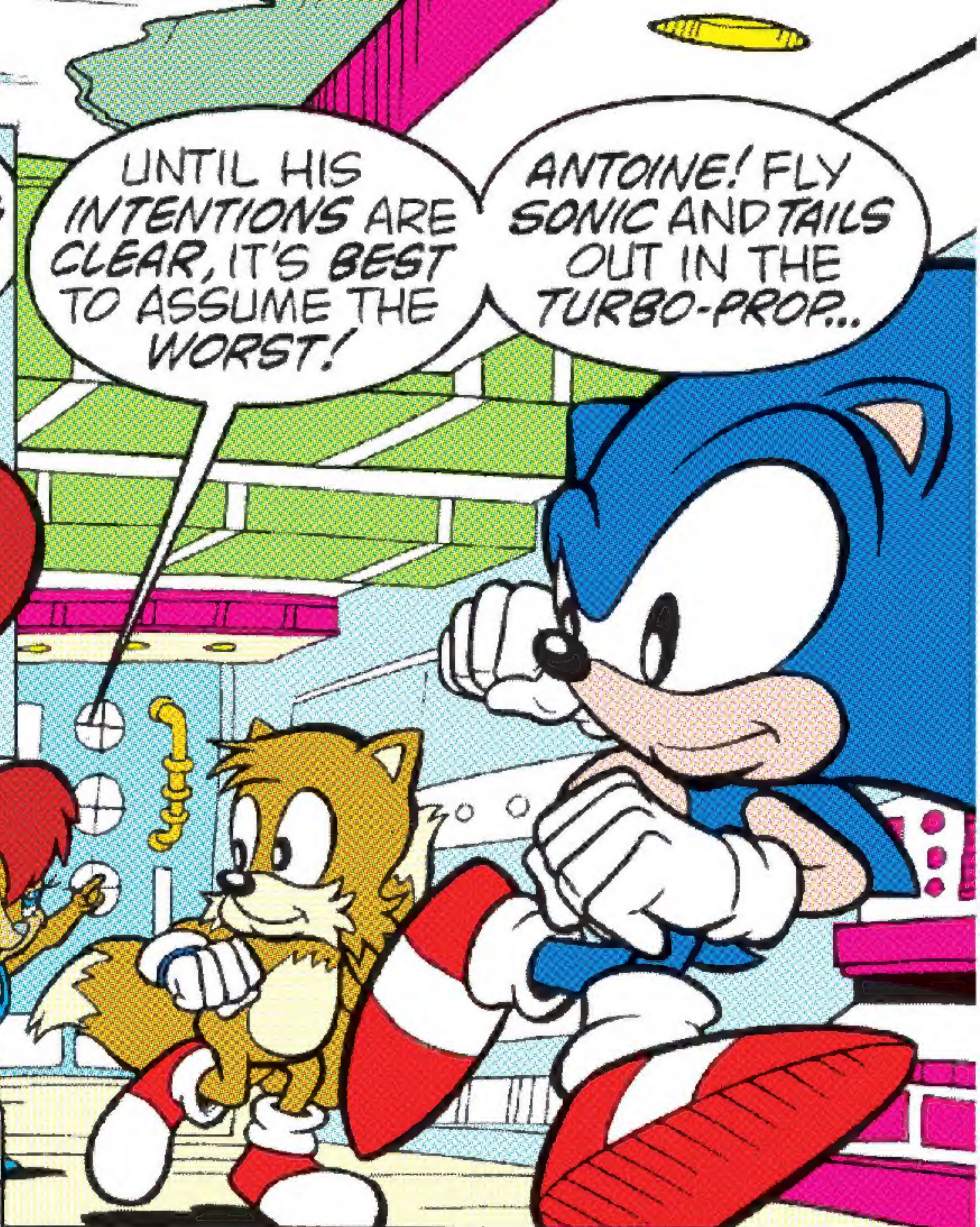
THAT'S--HARD TO SAY, SAL! FOR AN ECHIDNA...

...HE'S ONE STRANGE DUDE!



FAR AS I COULD TELL, HE'S NEITHER FOR US OR AGAINST US...

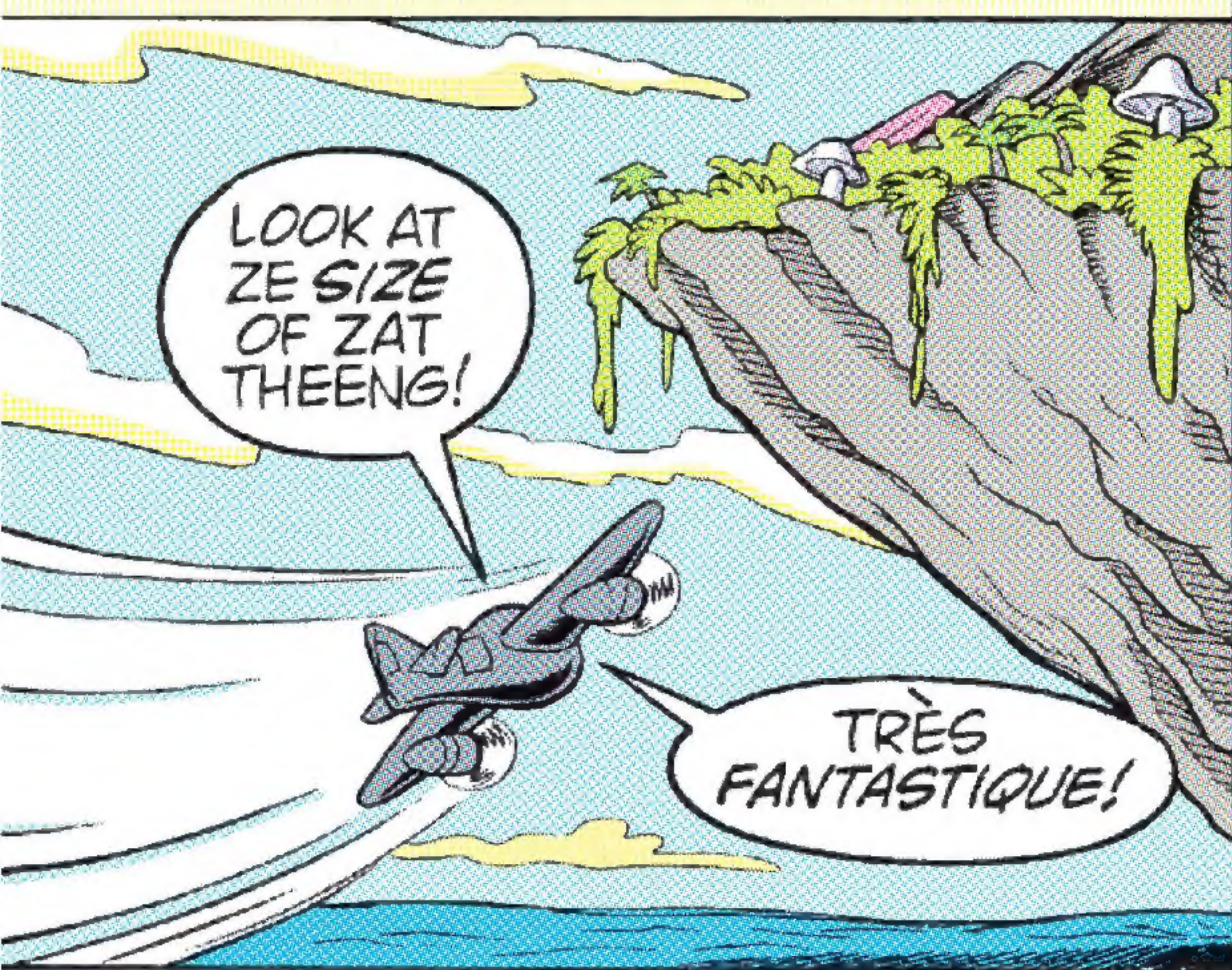
...WHICH MAKES SECOND-GUESSING HIM ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE!



UNTIL HIS INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR, IT'S BEST TO ASSUME THE WORST!

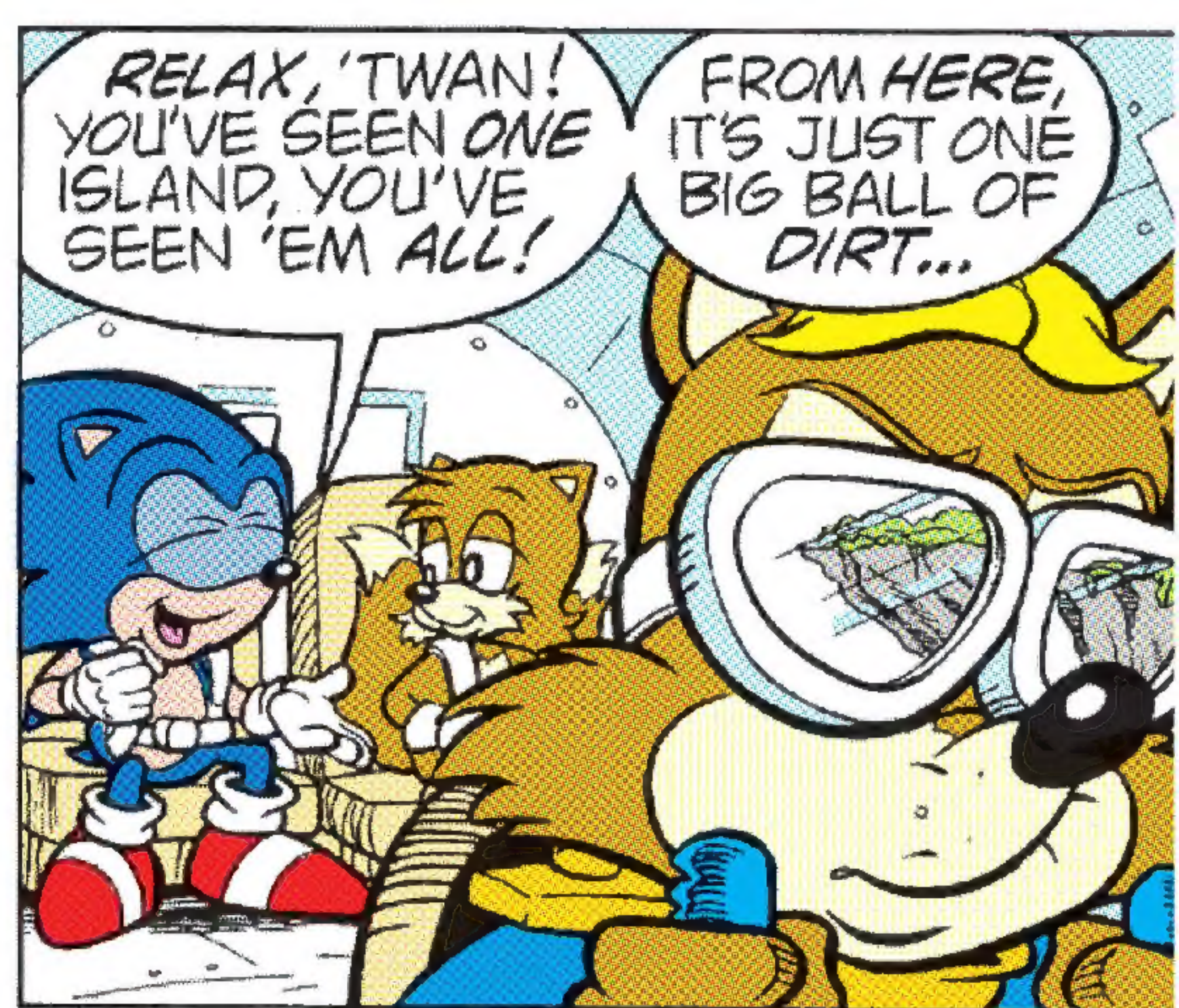
ANTOINE! FLY SONIC AND TAILS OUT IN THE TURBO-PROP...

"...AND LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK!"



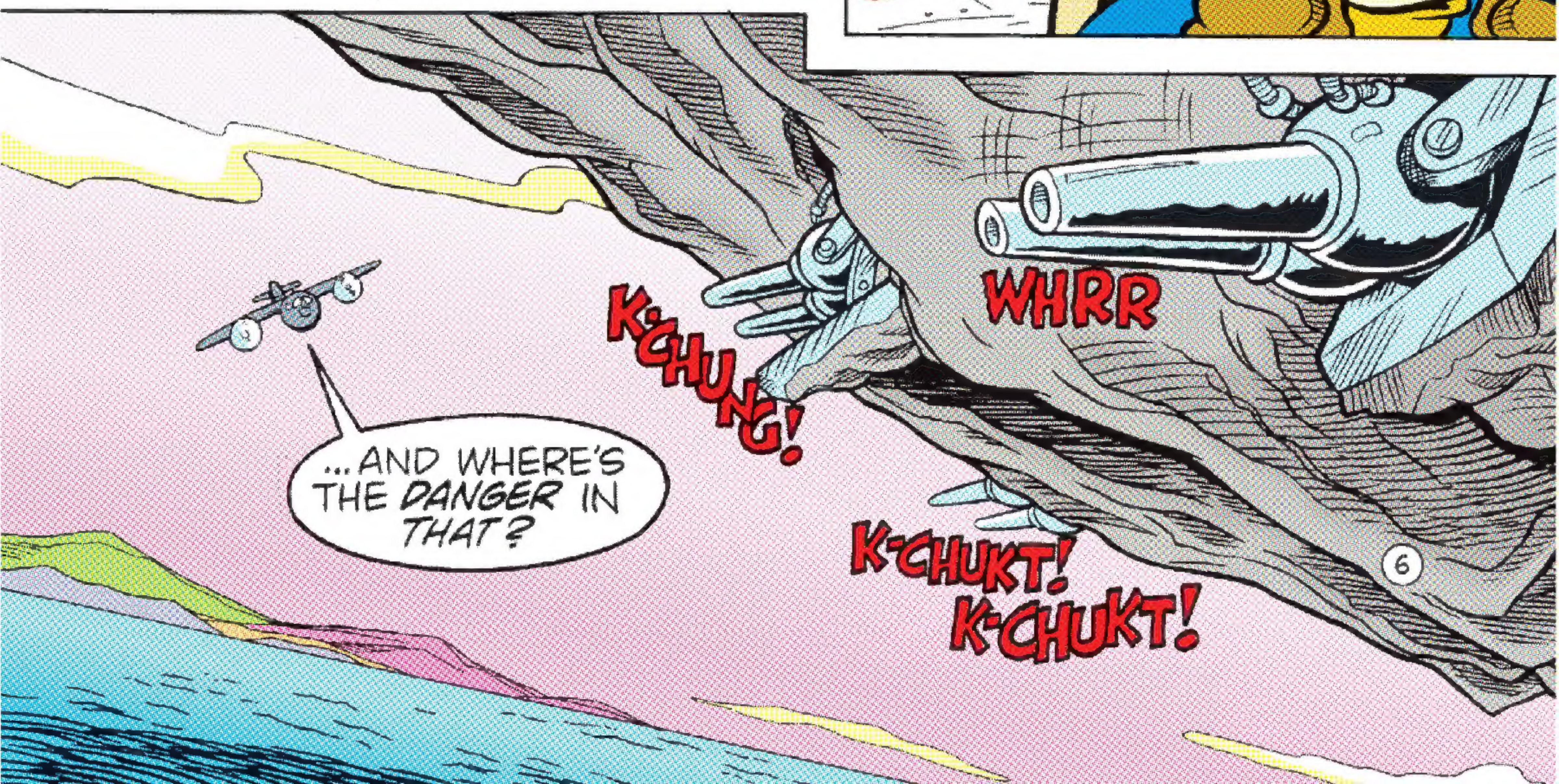
LOOK AT ZE SIZE OF ZAT THEENG!

TRÈS FANTASTIQUE!



RELAX, 'TWAN! YOU'VE SEEN ONE ISLAND, YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL!

FROM HERE, IT'S JUST ONE BIG BALL OF DIRT...



...AND WHERE'S THE DANGER IN THAT?

K-CHUNG!

WHRR

K-CHUKT!
K-CHUKT!

NOT WAY
COOL!

WE'RE
UNDER
ATTACK!

PHOOM!

PHOOM!

PHOOM!

ZUT
ALORS!

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID ZIS
ISLAND WAS
UNARMED!

IT WAS...

...UNTIL
NOW!

SOMETHING
NEW HAS BEEN
ADDED!

HEAVY
ARTILLERY...

...AND
ENGINES!

TAKE US
TOPSIDE, 'TWAN!
LET'S GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF
THIS!

ZE GUNS, IT SEEMS, CANNOT BE AIMED ABOVE ZE HORIZON!

I WAS COUNTING ON THAT!

GET YOURSELF AND THE TURBO-PROP BACK TO BASE...

...WE'RE GOIN' IN!

GERONIMO!!!

NEED A LIFT, SONIC?

NO THANKS, PAL...

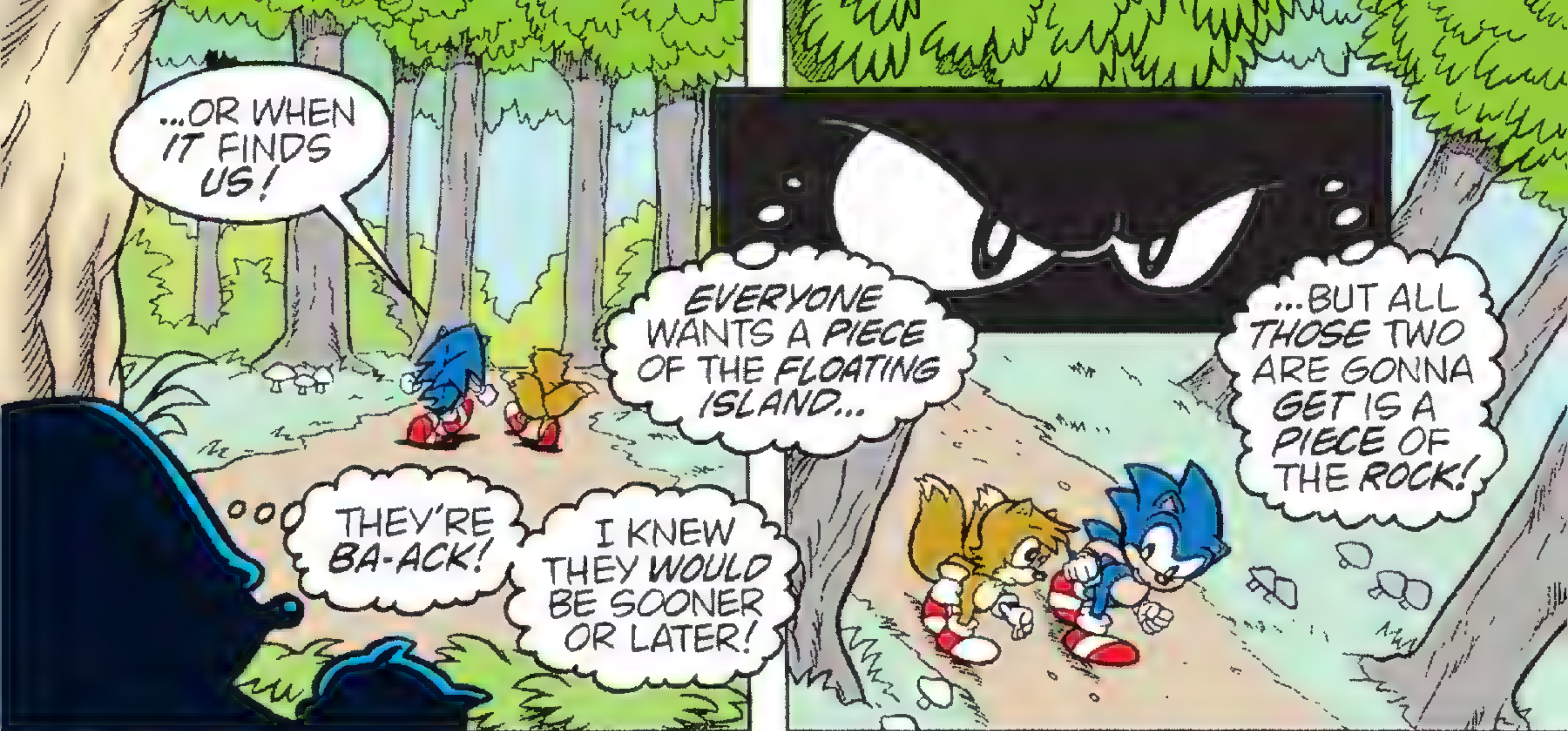
...BEING PIGGY-BACKED IS BAD FOR MY IMAGE!

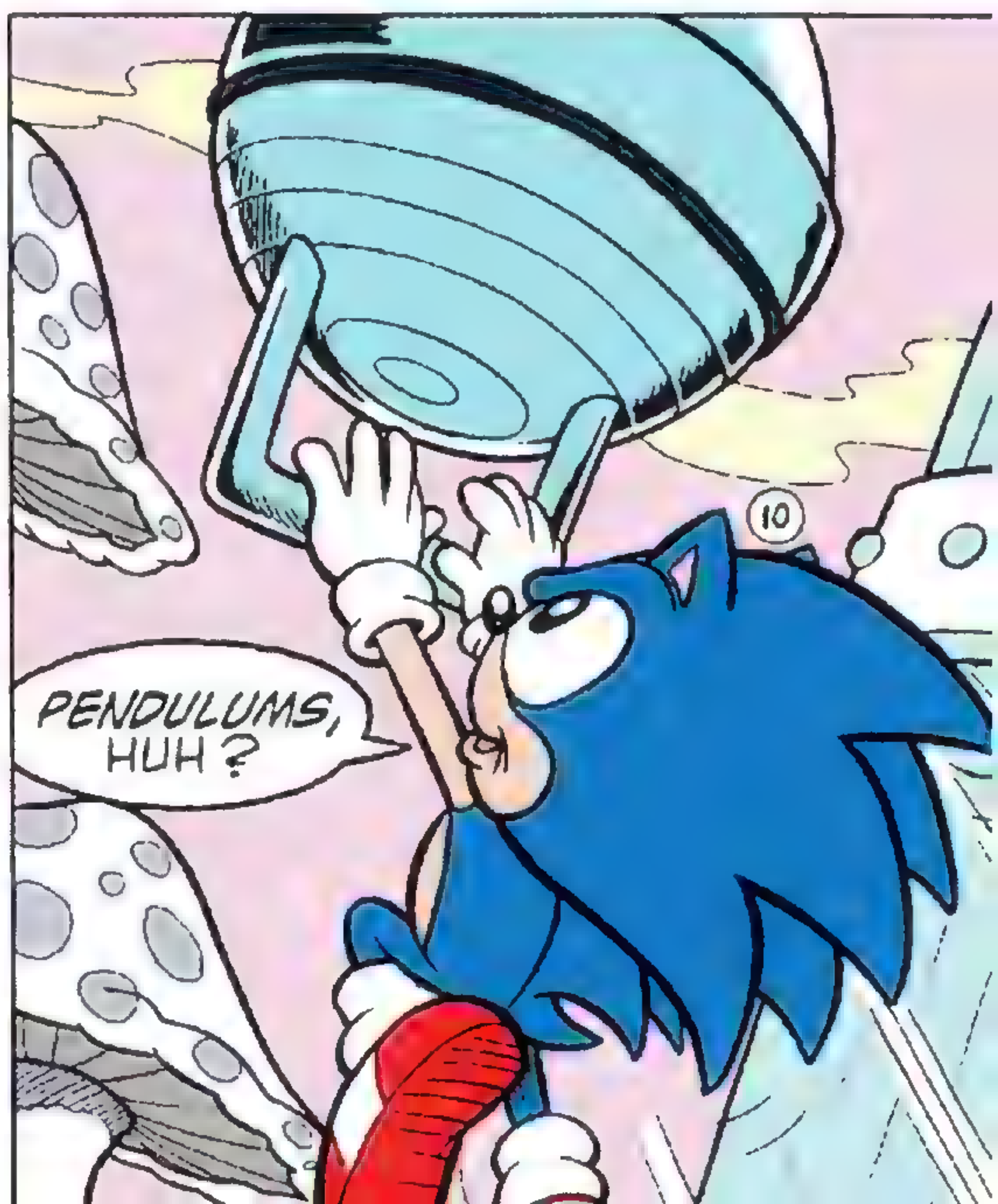
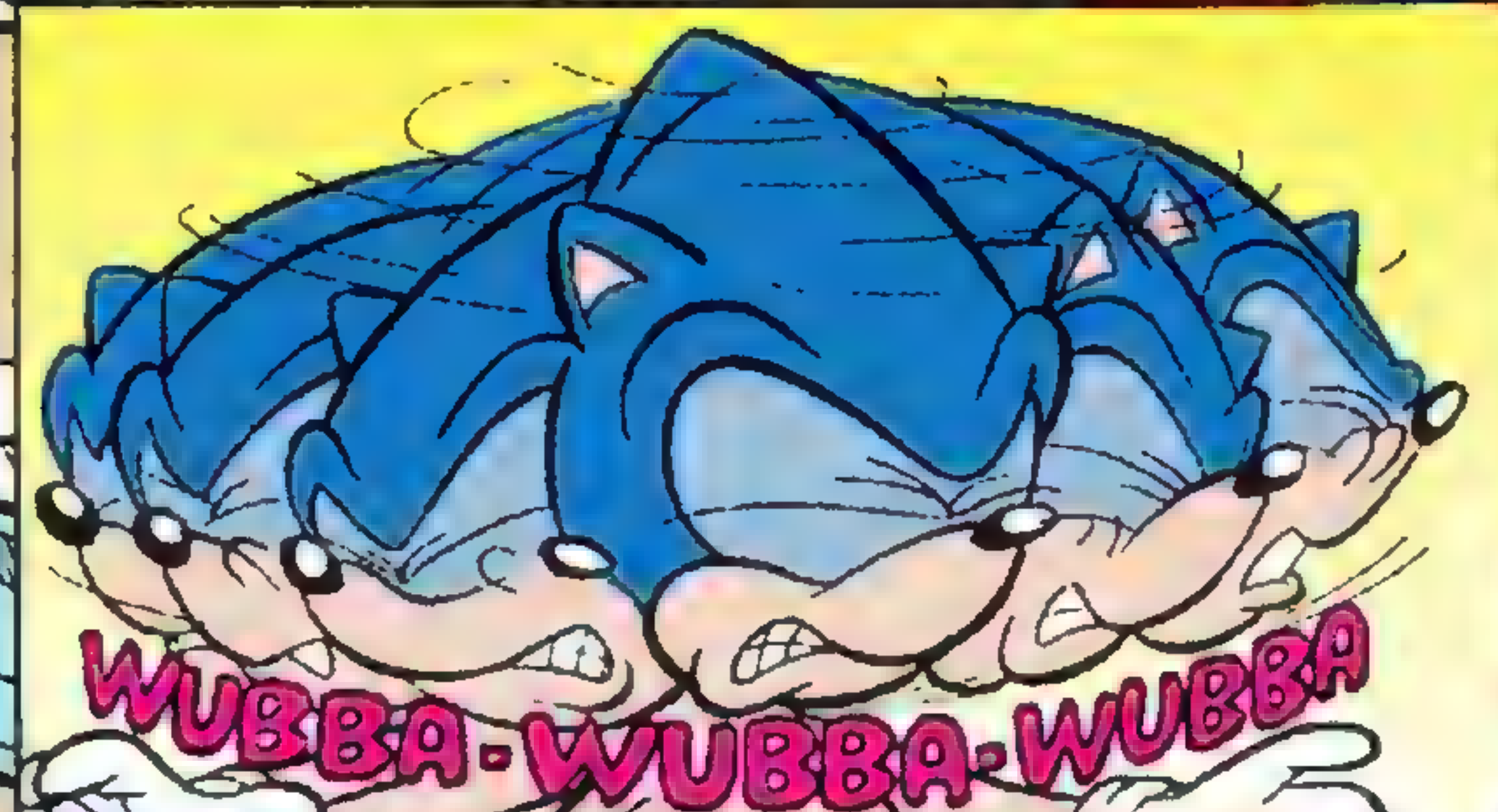
SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?

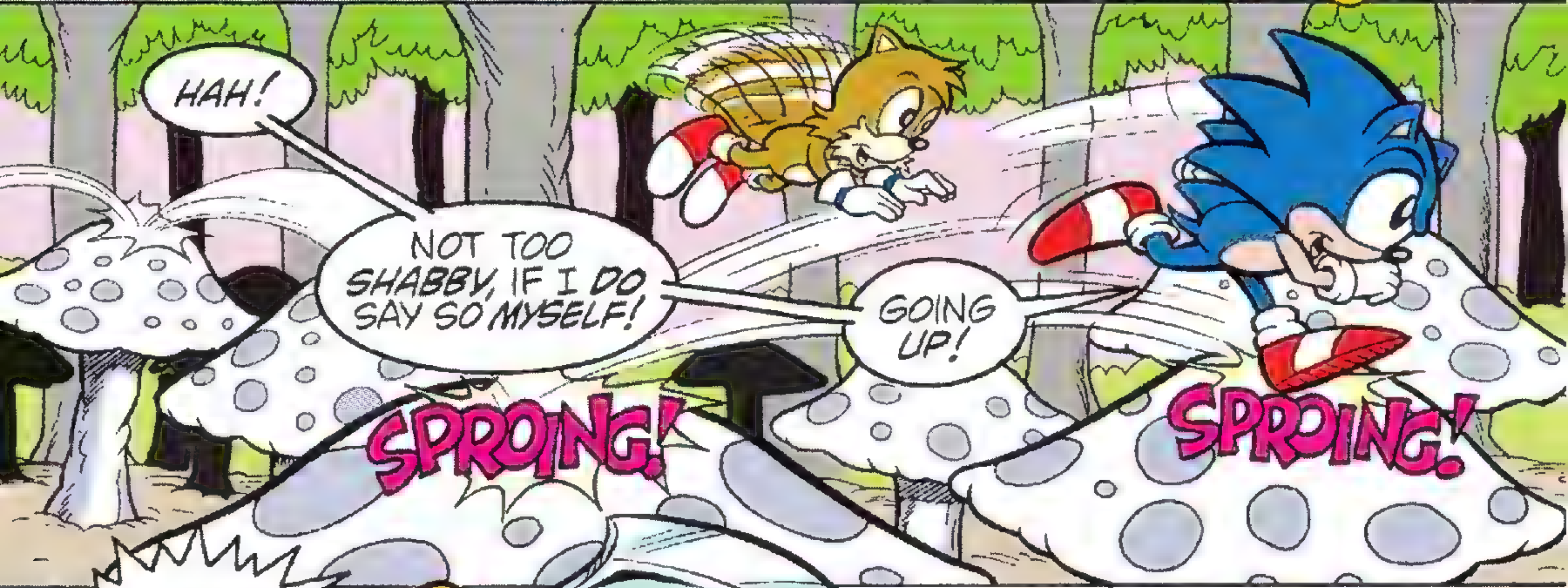
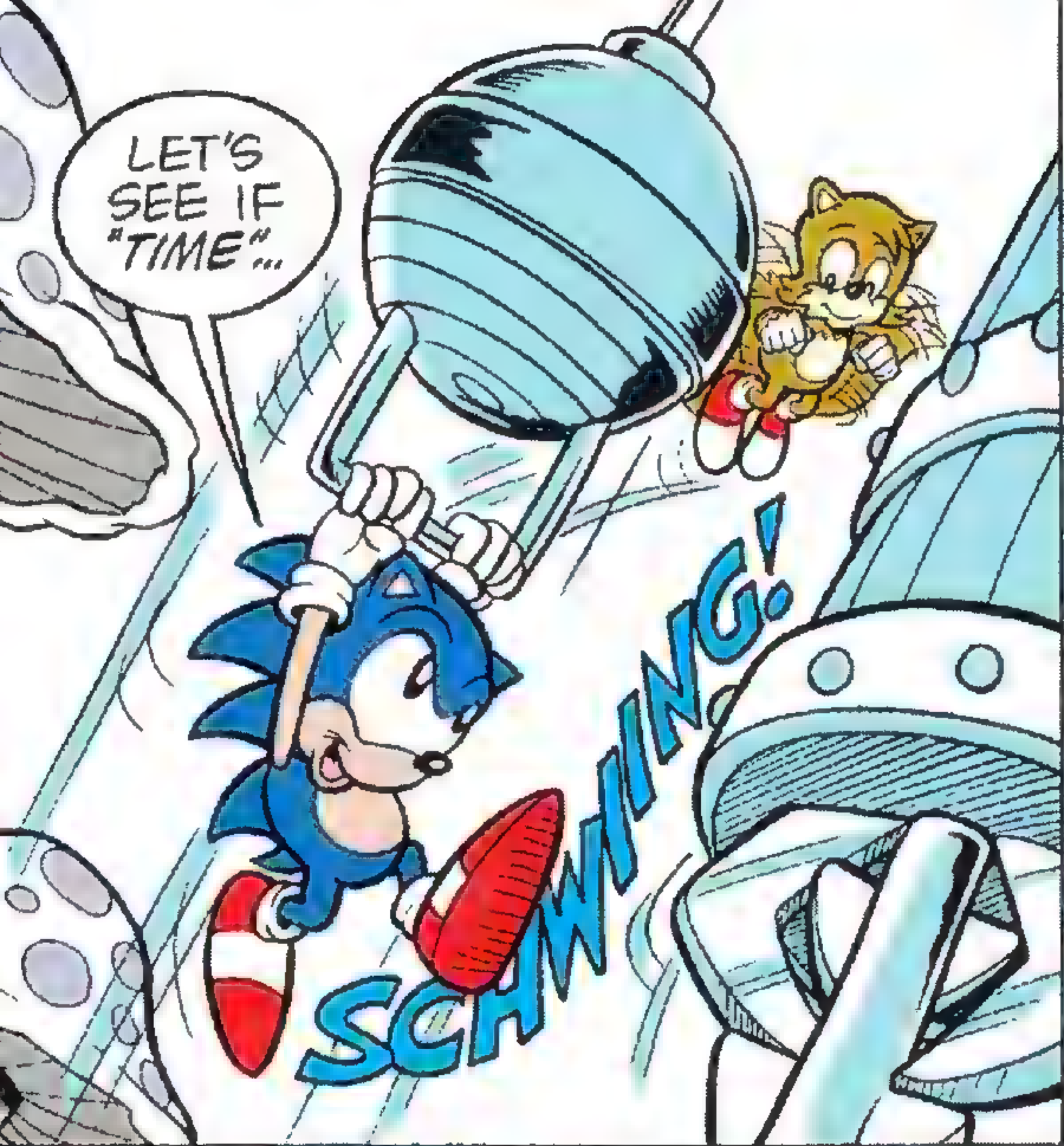
I'M NOT QUITE SURE, TAILS!

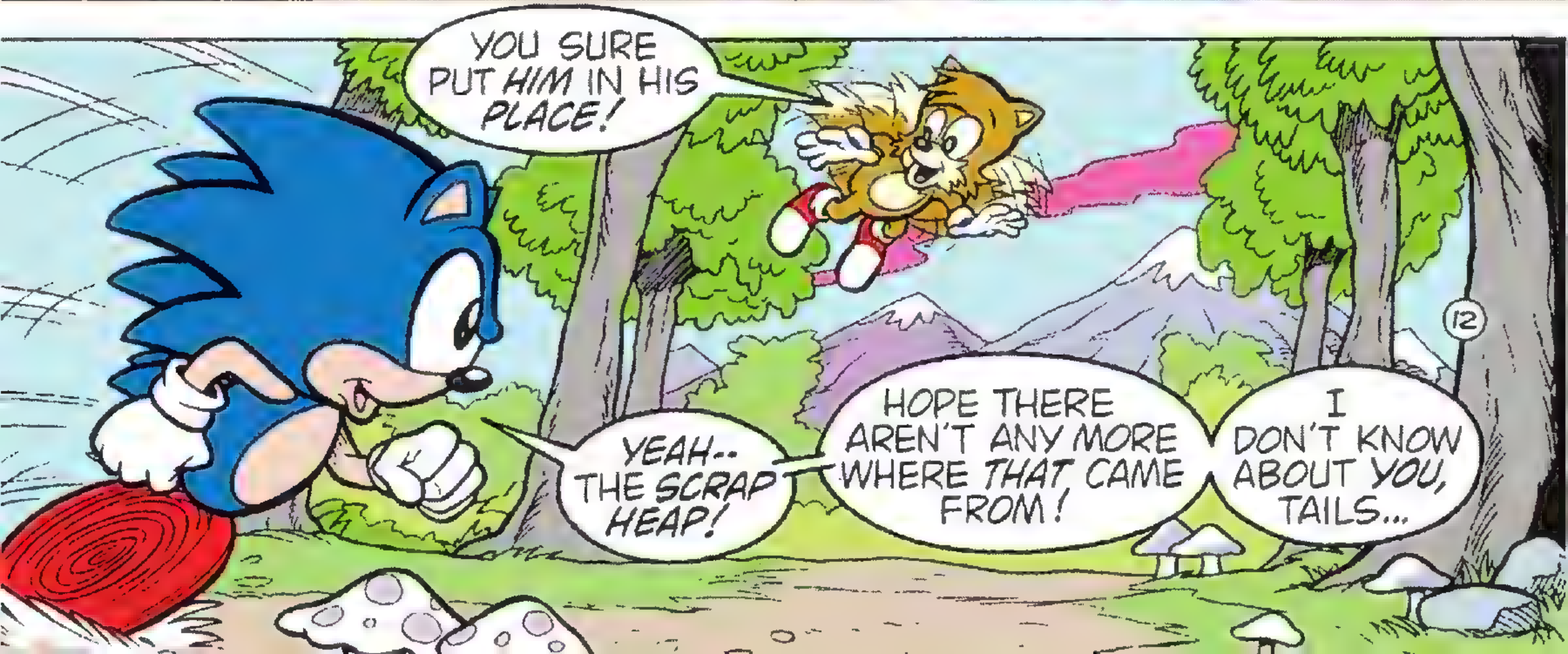
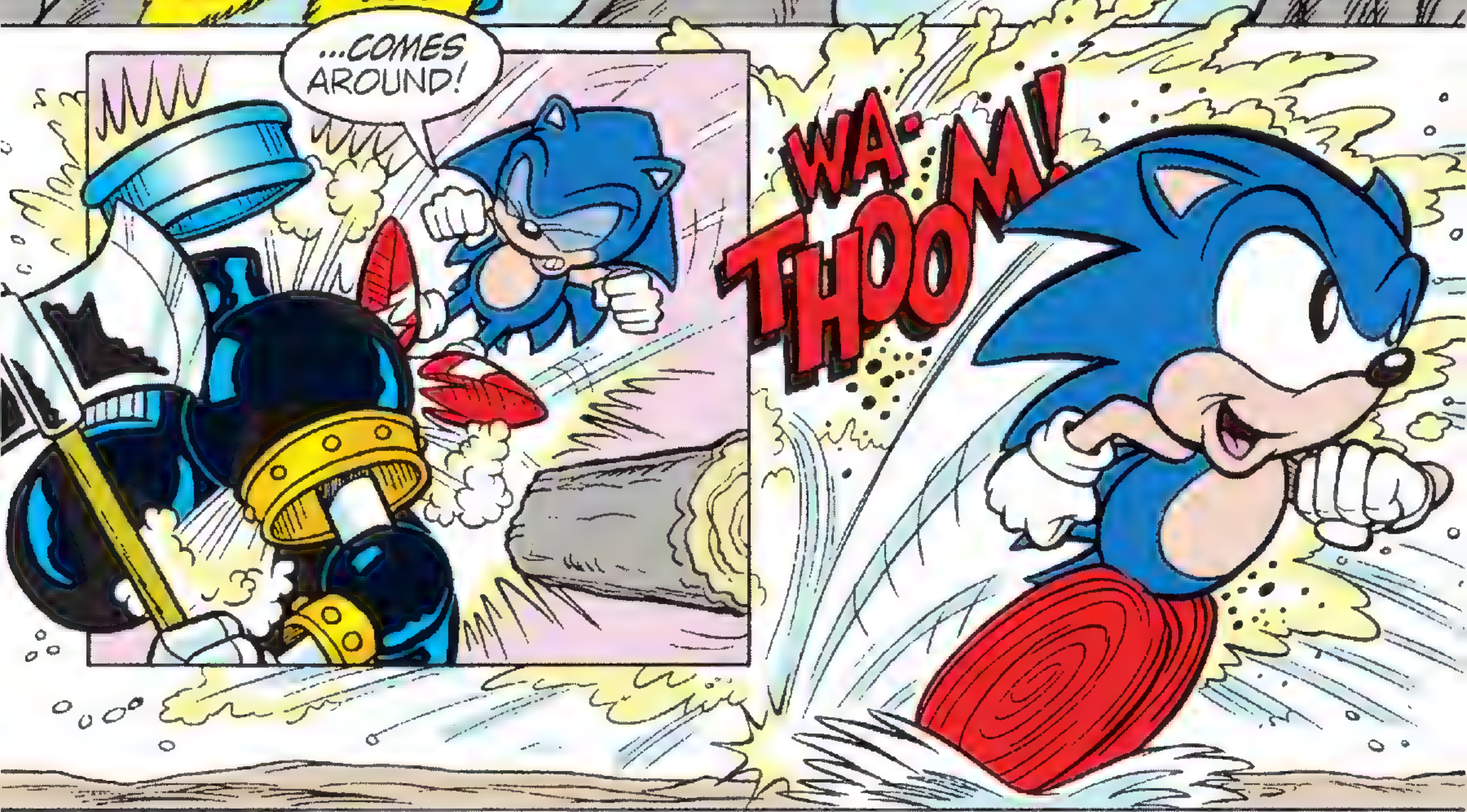
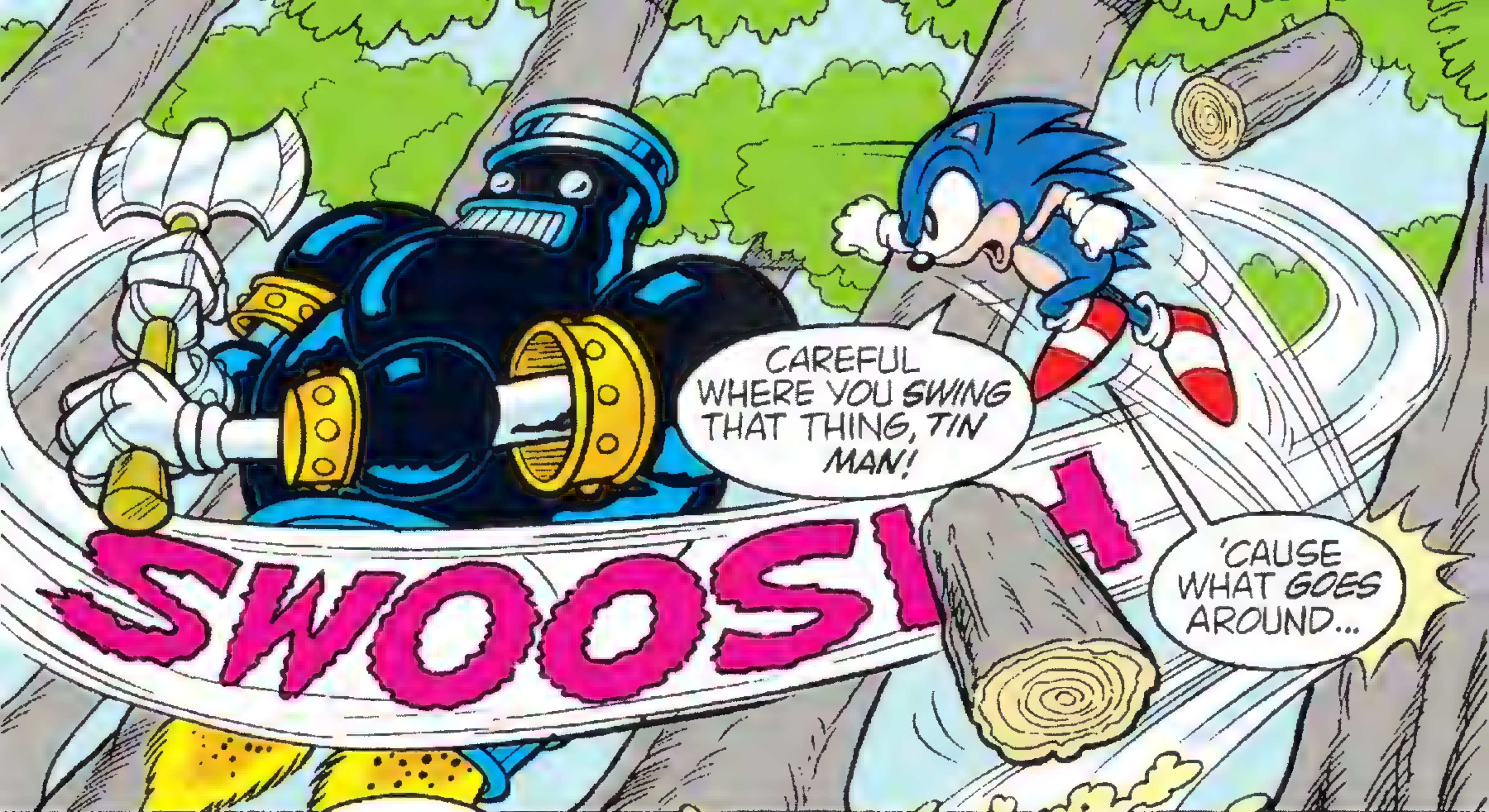
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE FIND IT...

WHUUMPH!









...BUT I'M
GETTING PRETTY SICK
OF HAVING THE RUG
PULLED OUT FROM
UNDER--

HEY!

FLOOMP!

HAAALP!

ME
AND MY BIG
MOUTH!

UHG!

LUCKY I
MANAGED
TO SNAG
THIS
LEDGE...

WHUUMPH!

...OR I
WOULD'VE BEEN
IN DEEP, DEEP
TROUBLE!

WHO
SAYS YOU'RE
NOT?

HI, THERE!

MISS
ME?

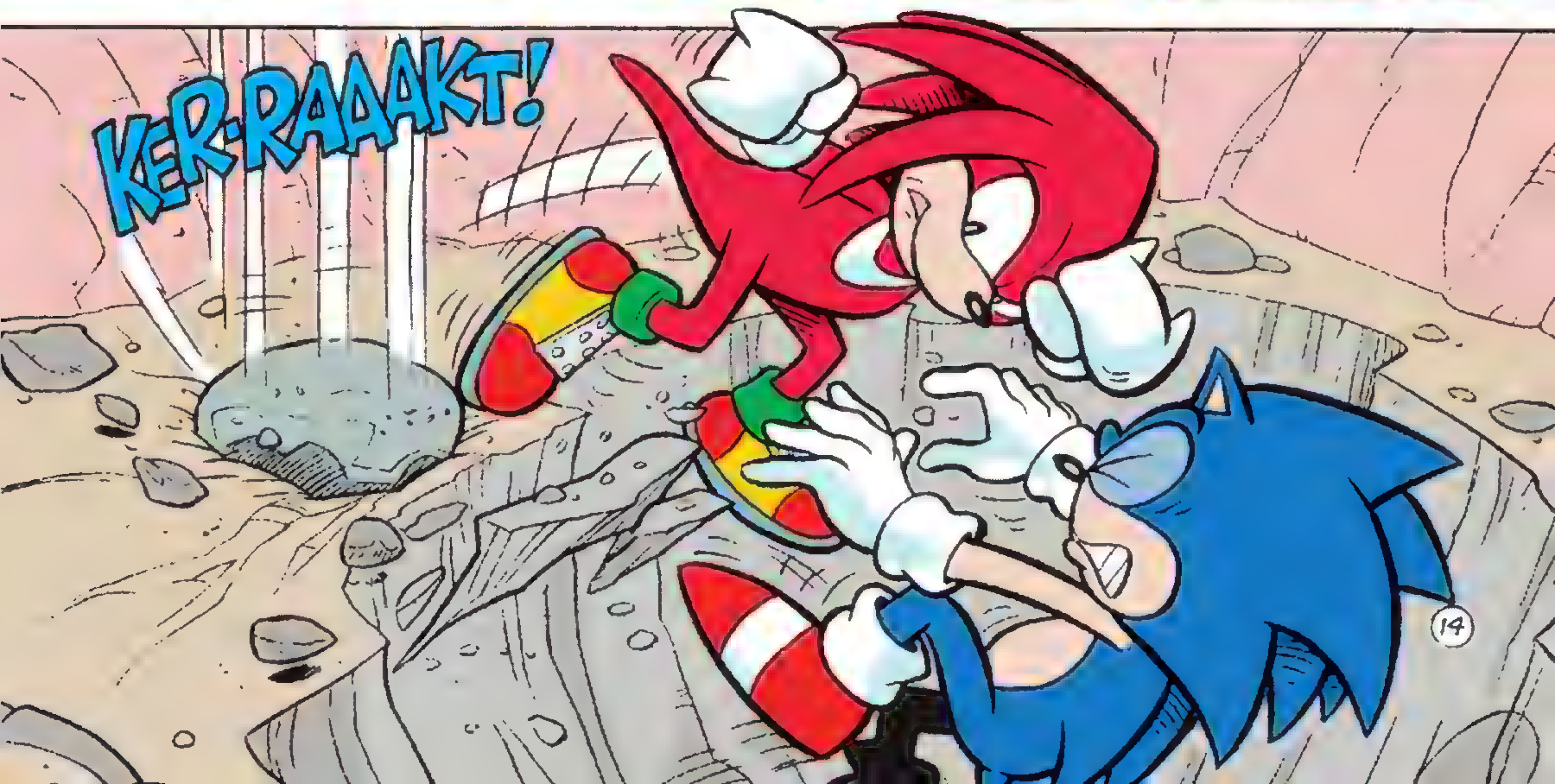
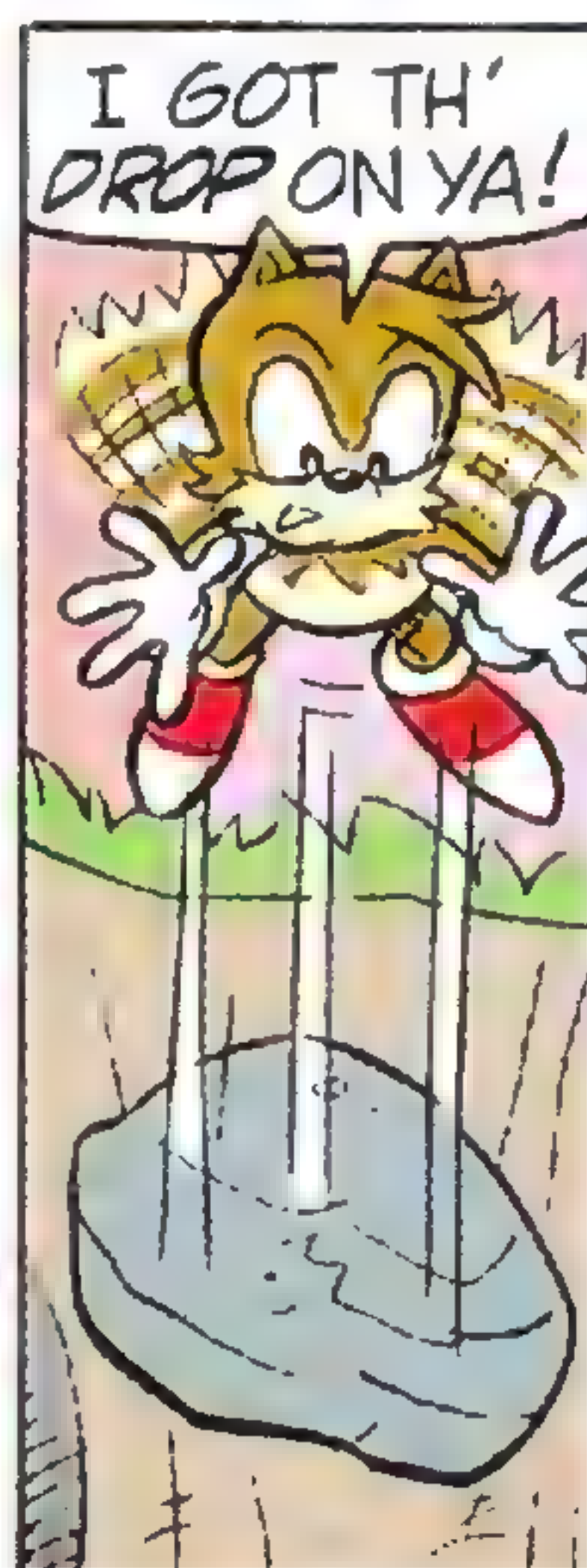
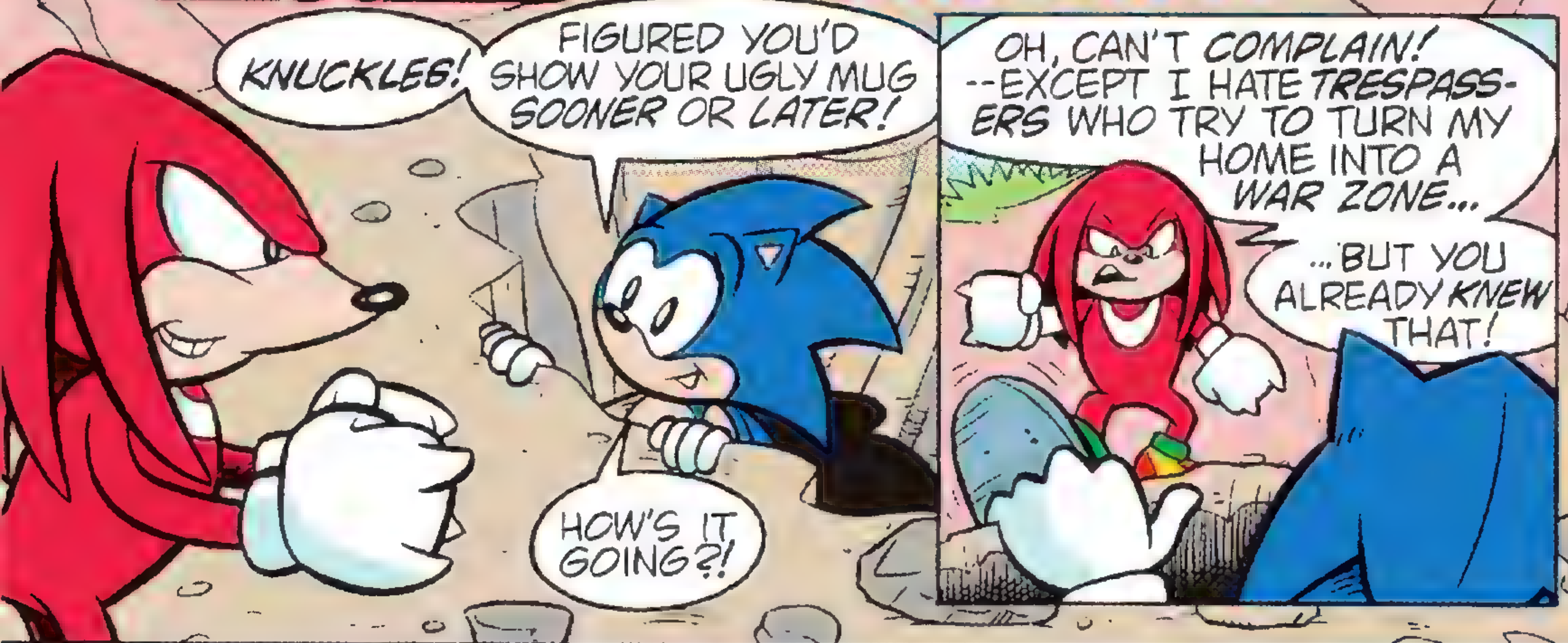
WHO'S THE MYSTERIOUS
STRANGER? WE'LL GIVE
YOU ONE GUESS!

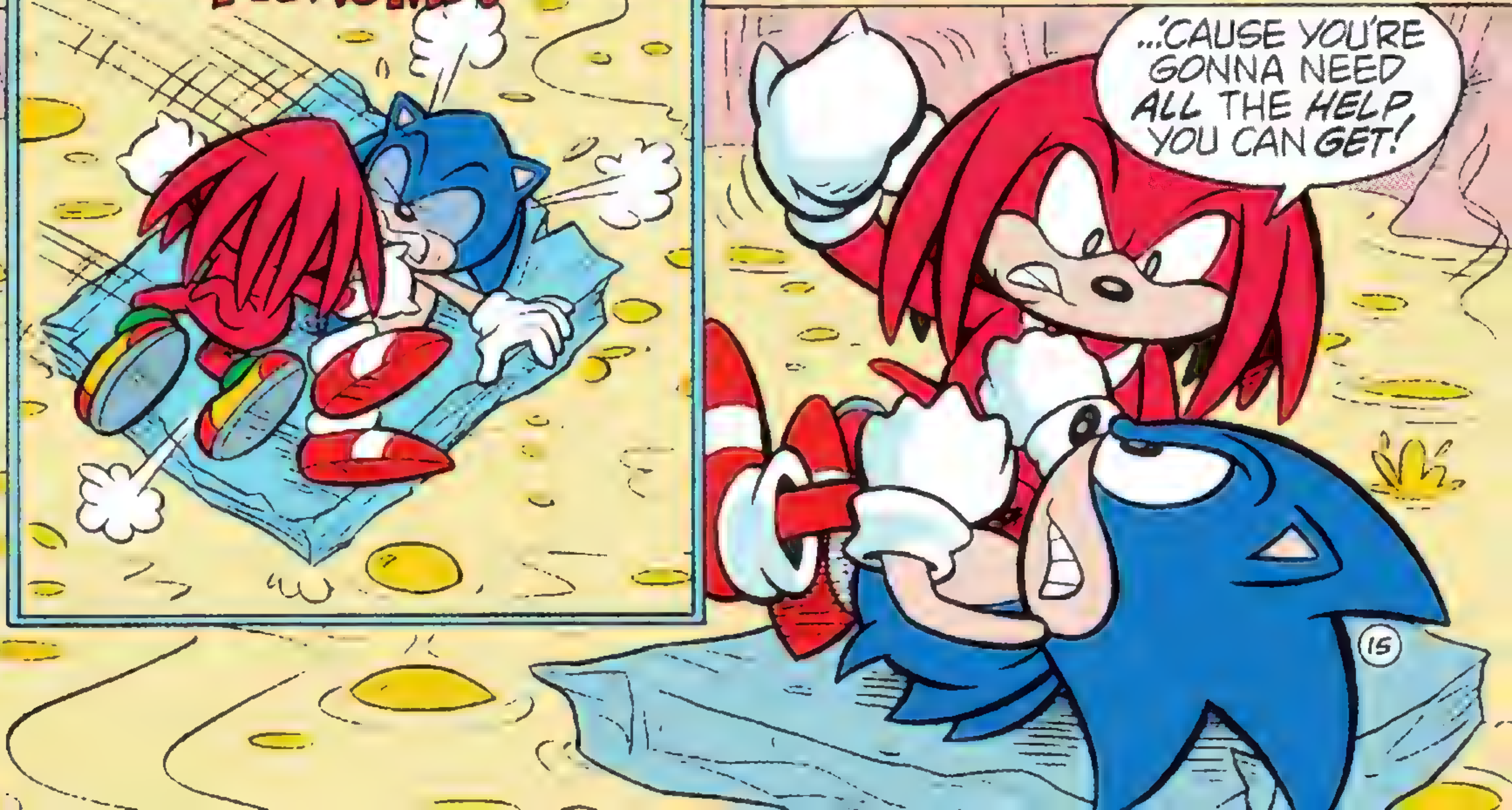
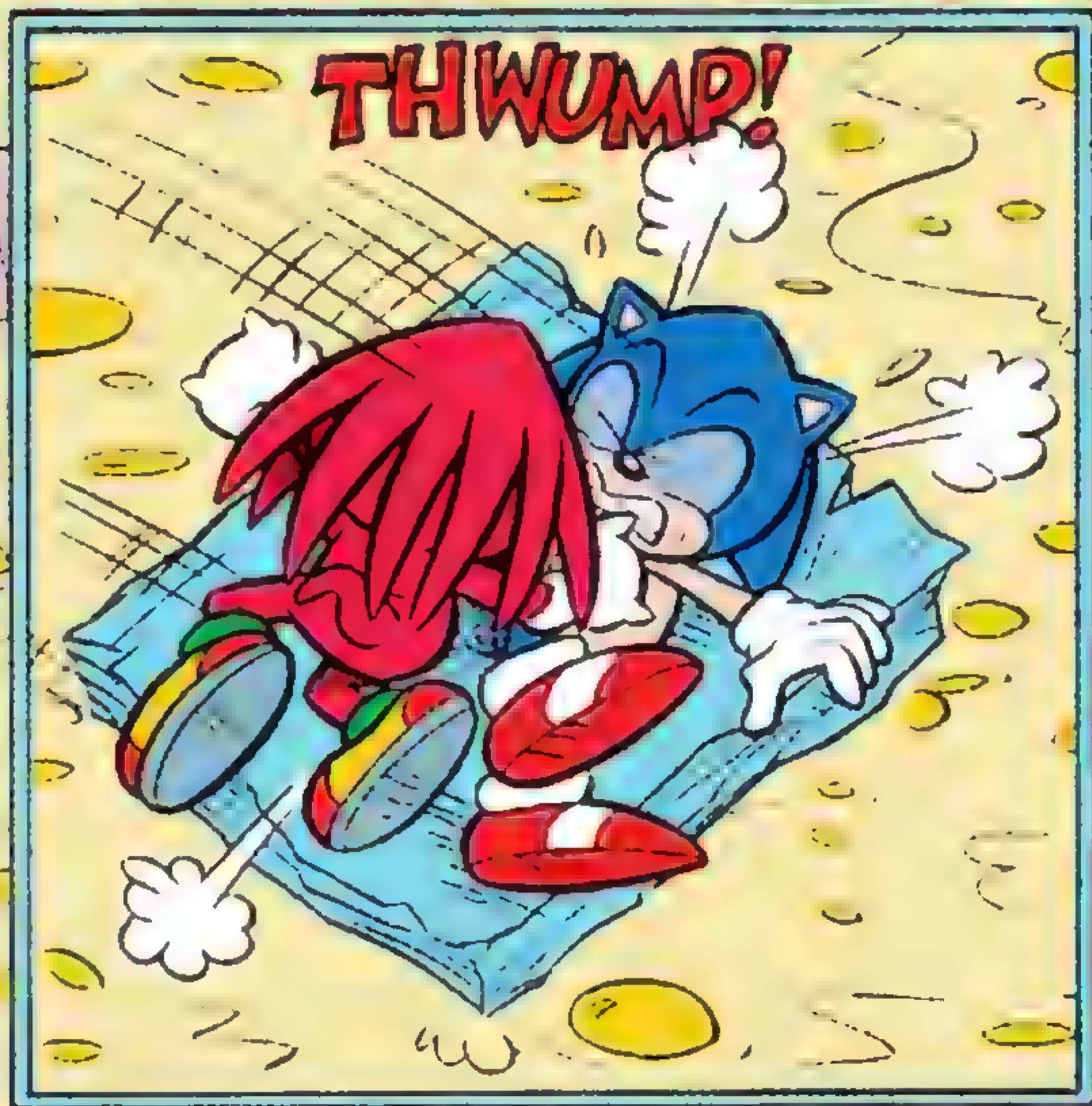
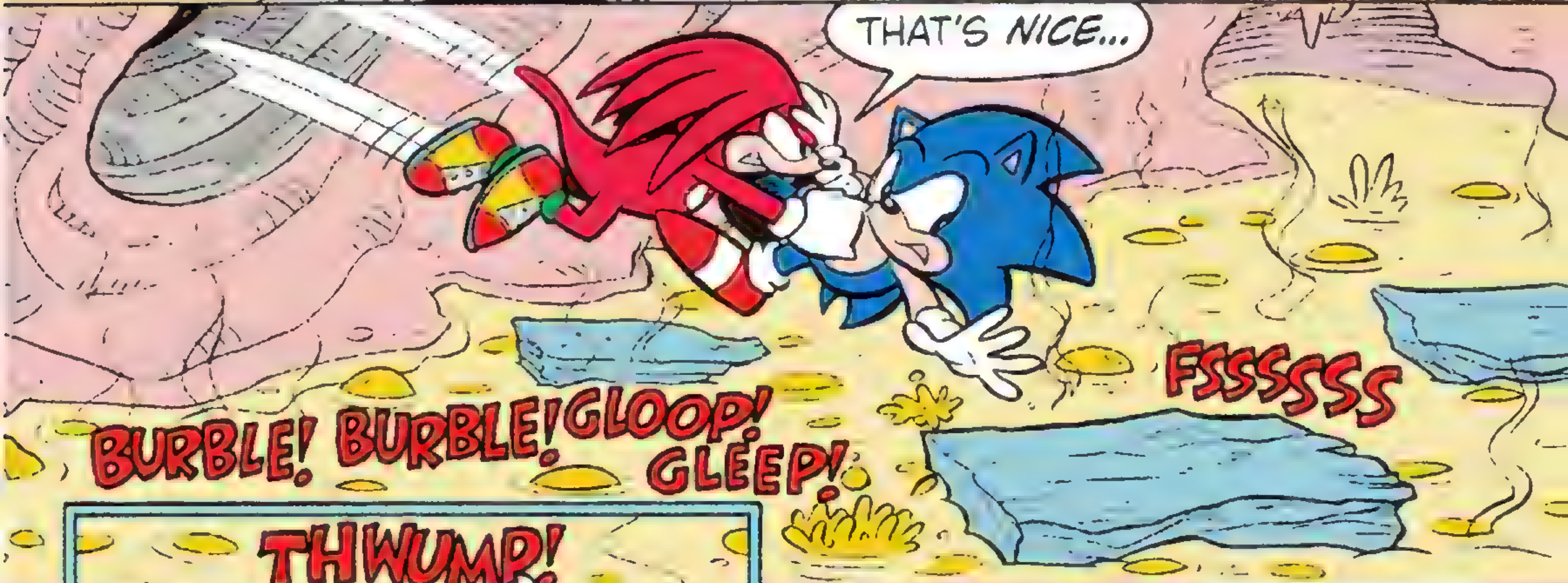
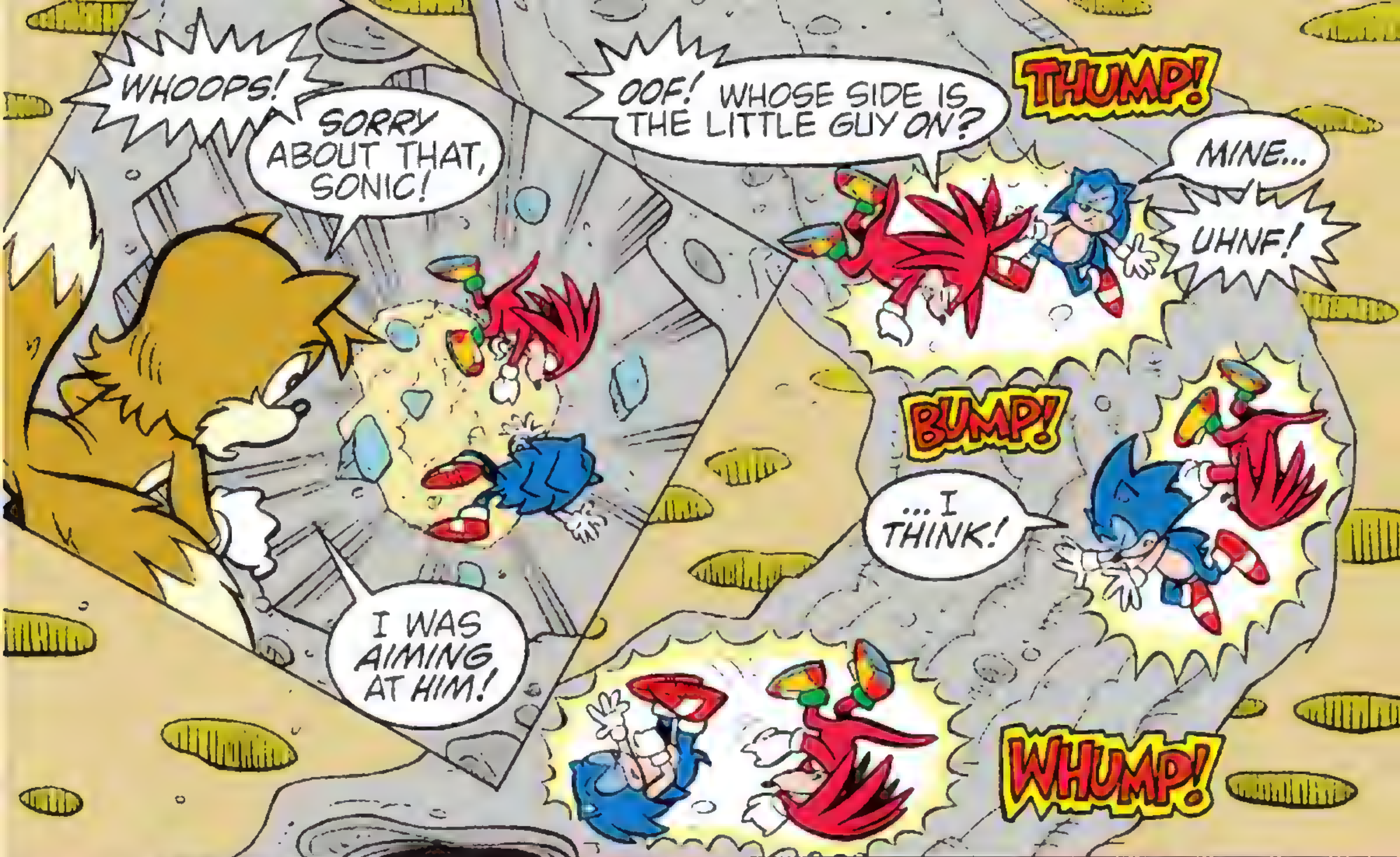
SONIC & KNUCKLES™

IN

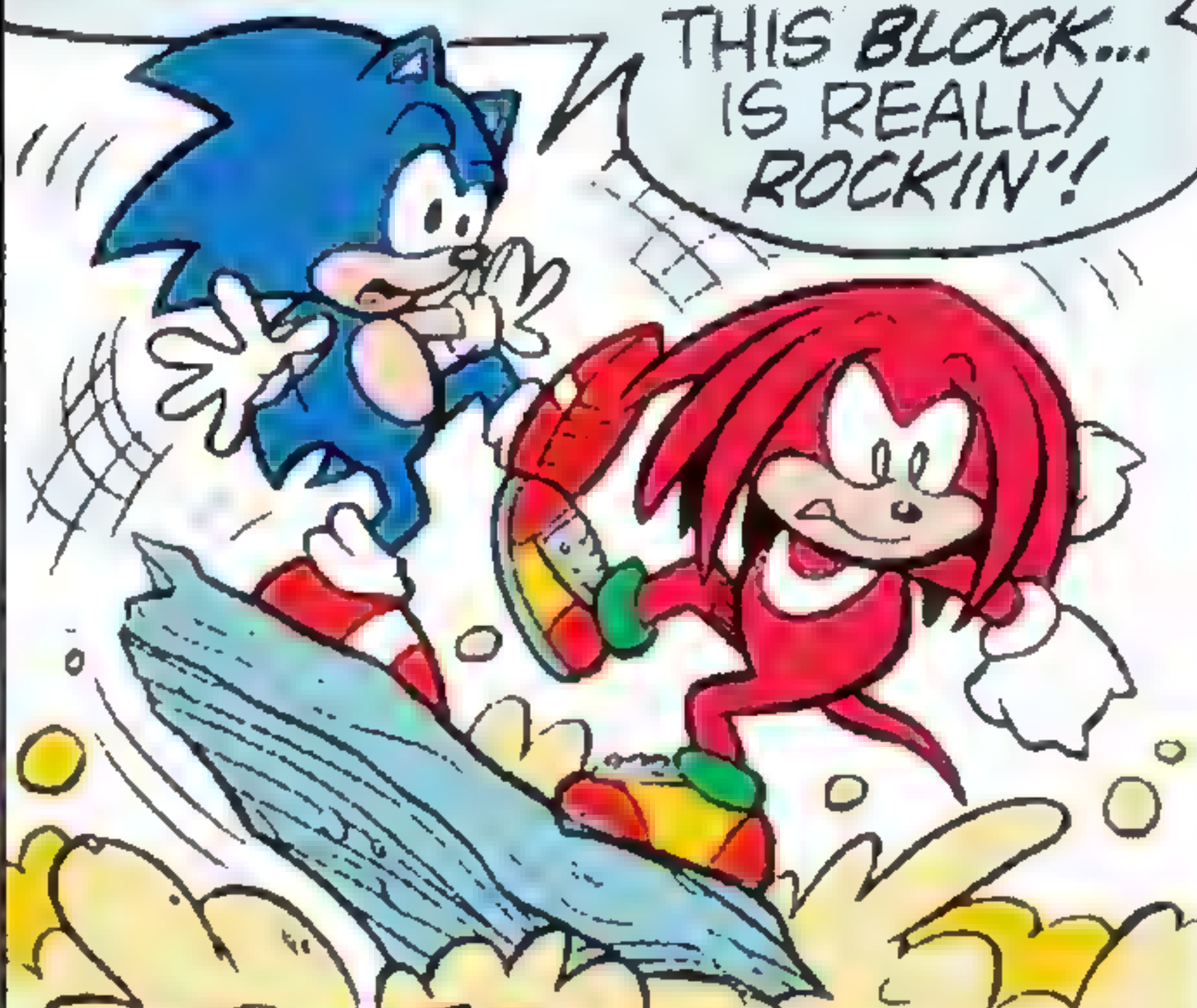
PANIC IN THE SKY!

PART II





UH--KNUCKLES? I THINK WE'RE BOTH GONNA NEED SOME HELP! THIS BLOCK... IS REALLY ROCKIN'!



RRRRRUUMMBBLLLLLL

NOT TO WORRY, PEOPLE...



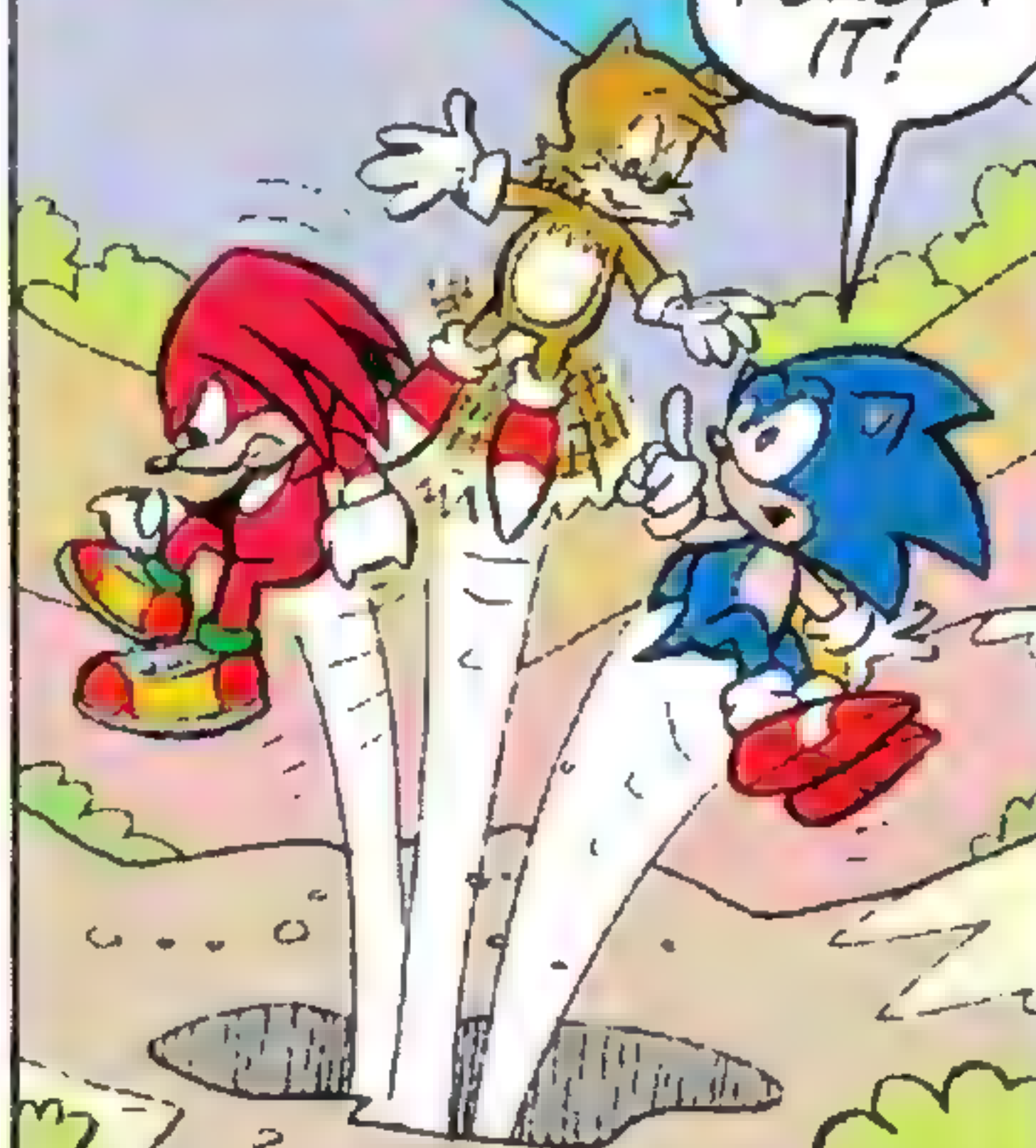
SHOOOOOM!

... 'CAUSE WE ARE OUTTA HERE!



THANKS, PAL!

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT BEING "PIGGY-BACKED"? FORGET IT!



YEAH, THANKS, PAL! I'M PRETTY GOOD AT FLYING AND GLIDING -- BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD GET ENOUGH ALTITUDE!



HOWEVER, I STILL HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT MY HOME FROM INTRUDERS!

AGREED! BUT WE'RE NOT THE ENEMY! LOOK! UP IN THE SKY...





...AND YOU'LL
GET THE BIG
PICTURE!

IT'S
FULL OF
STARS...

...ALL OF
THEM IN THE
WRONG
PLACES!

THAT'S WHAT
WE'VE BEEN
TRYING TO
TELL YOU!

YOUR
ISLAND...

...HAS BEEN
HIJACKED!



BY NOW, WE'RE
OVER KNOTHOLE
VILLAGE--'COURSE
IT'S DARK, SO
NOBODY'D NOTICE!

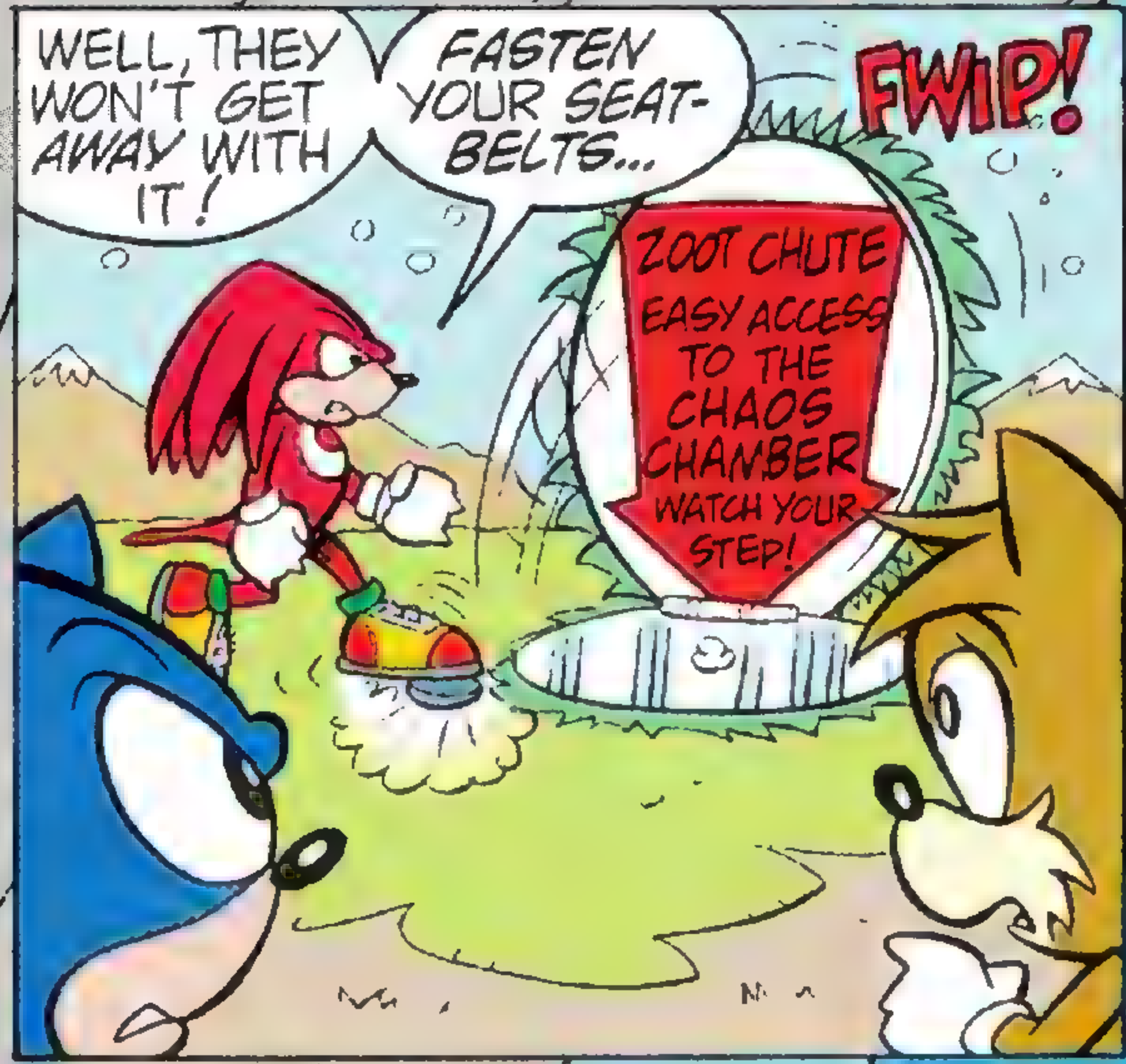
SOMEONE'S REFITTED
THE UNDERSIDE OF
YOUR ISLAND WITH
ENGINES...AND GUNS!

THAT'S
WHY WE'RE
HERE!



D'OH! **FOOLED AGAIN!**
THE FLOATING ISLAND
HAS BEEN TURNED INTO
A FLYING FORTRESS!

BUT
WHO..?



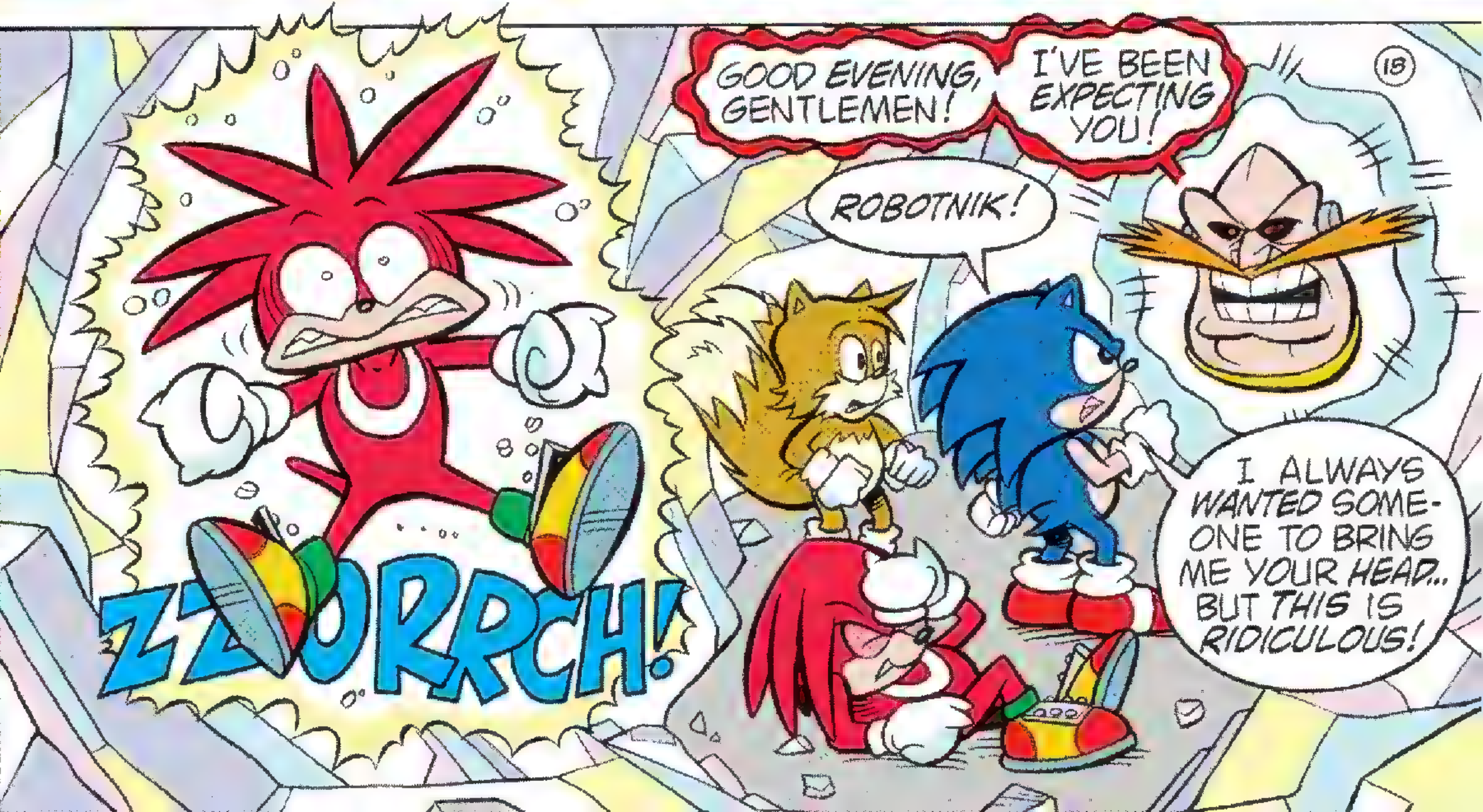
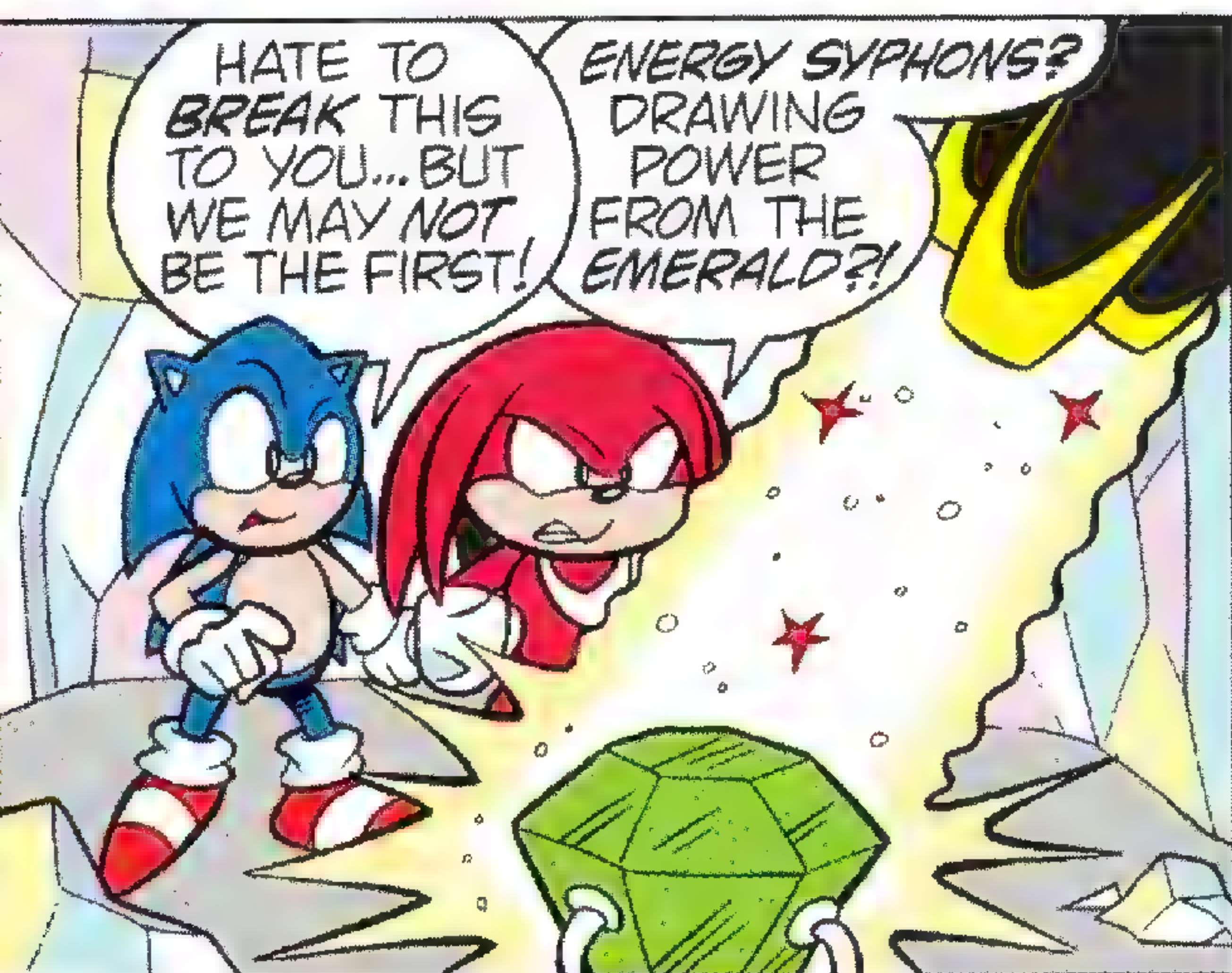
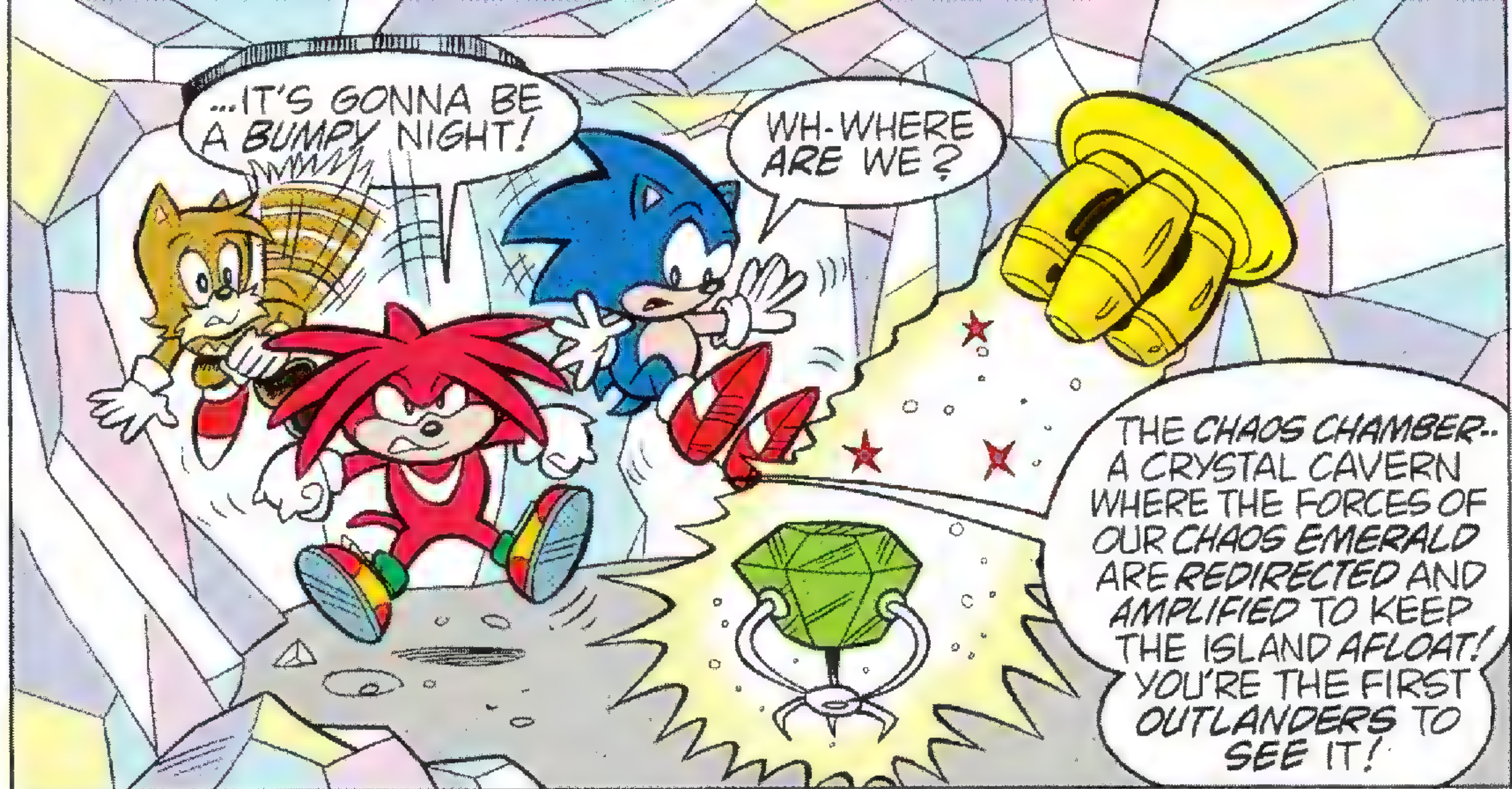
WELL, THEY
WON'T GET
AWAY WITH
IT!

FASTEN
YOUR SEAT-
BELTS...

FWIP!

ZOOT CHUTE
EASY ACCESS
TO THE
CHAOS
CHAMBER
WATCH YOUR
STEP!







SPILL
IT, 'BOT-
BREATH!

ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?

NO--OF
COURSE
NOT...

WHY'D YOU
TURN THIS
ISLAND INTO
AN AIR SPACE
BATTLESHIP?

"...FOR ONLY I HAVE
THE VISION TO
RECOGNIZE THE
FLOATING ISLAND'S
VAST UNTAPPED
STRATEGIC MILITARY
POTENTIAL!"

"SINCE DISCOVERING ITS EXISTENCE,
LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF HOURS HAVE BEEN
DEVOTED TO OPERATION: FLYING DESTROYER!"

"PHASE ONE INVOLVED AT-
TACHING A MOBILE COM-
MAND BASE TO THE
ISLAND'S
FOUNDATION..."

THWOCK!

"...AND UNLEASHING A
SERIES OF PARADROIDS--
COMPLEX, AUTOMATED
MECHANISMS DESIGNED
TO REFASHION ITS SHAPE
FROM TROPICAL PARADISE..."

WHRRR
KLAKETA-
KLAKETA-
KLAKETA-
K-CHUNG!

"...TO ENGINE OF
DESTRUCTION!"

RECESSED
SHOCK CANNONS

ME

YOU

ENERGY
SYPHONS

CHAOS
EMERALD

RETRO-FITTED
ENGINES

MODULAR
COMMAND
CENTER

CHAOS CHAMBER

"AND
SPEAKING OF
'ENGINES'..."

"USING
POWER FROM
THE CHAOS
EMERALD TO
FUEL THEM..."

"...I BEGAN
TO MOVE MY
FRESHLY-
ARMED
WEAPON OF
WAR DUE EAST..."

"...TOWARD
KNOTHOLE
VILLAGE!"

KNOTHOLE
VILLAGE

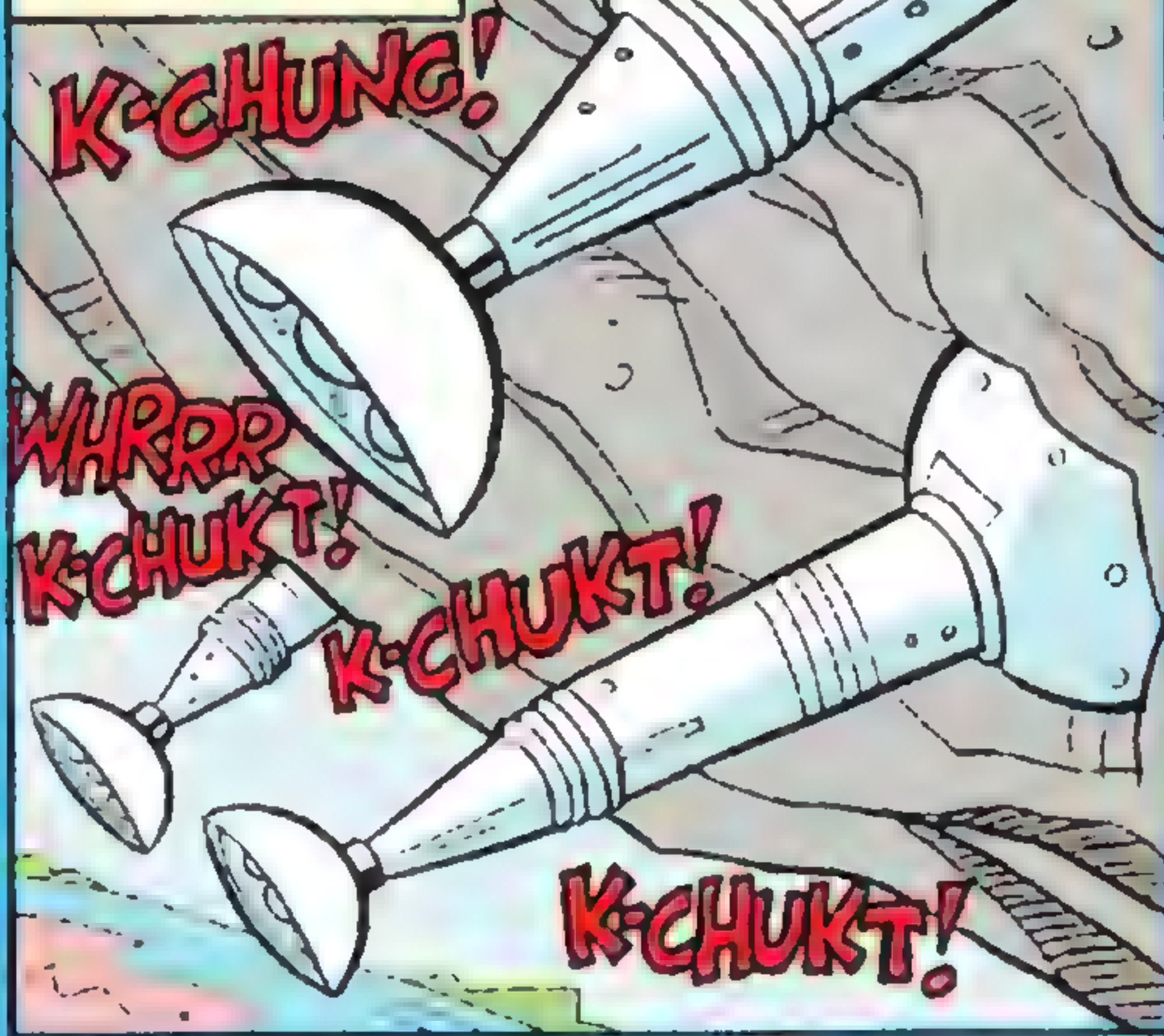
FLOATING
ISLAND

PROJECTED
TRAJECTORY

"IN MERE MOMENTS-- ONCE THE
ISLAND IS DIRECTLY OVERHEAD--
THE SHOCK-CANNONS MOUNTED
ALONG ITS UNDERSIDE SHALL FIRE!"



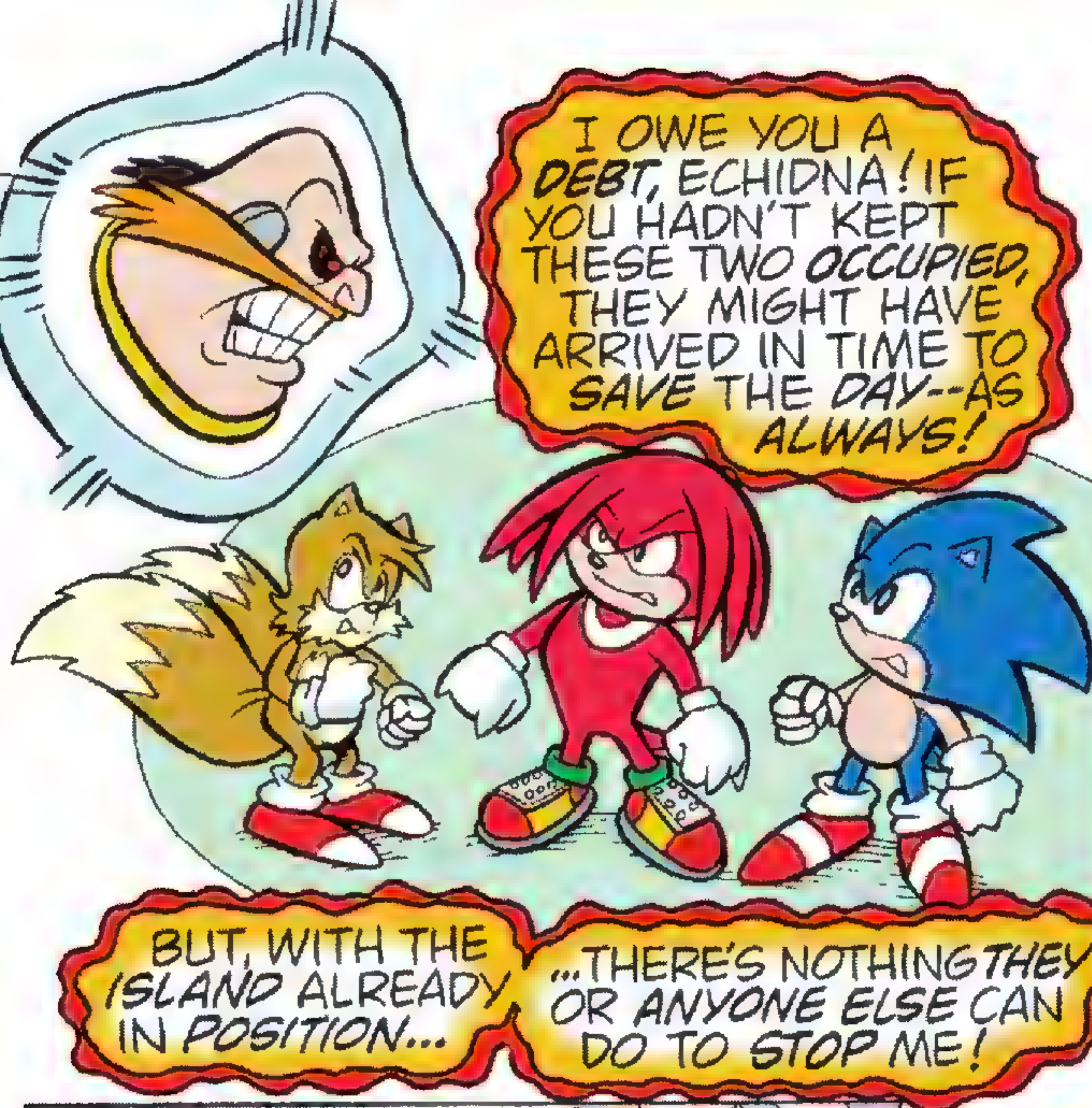
"AND THEN..."



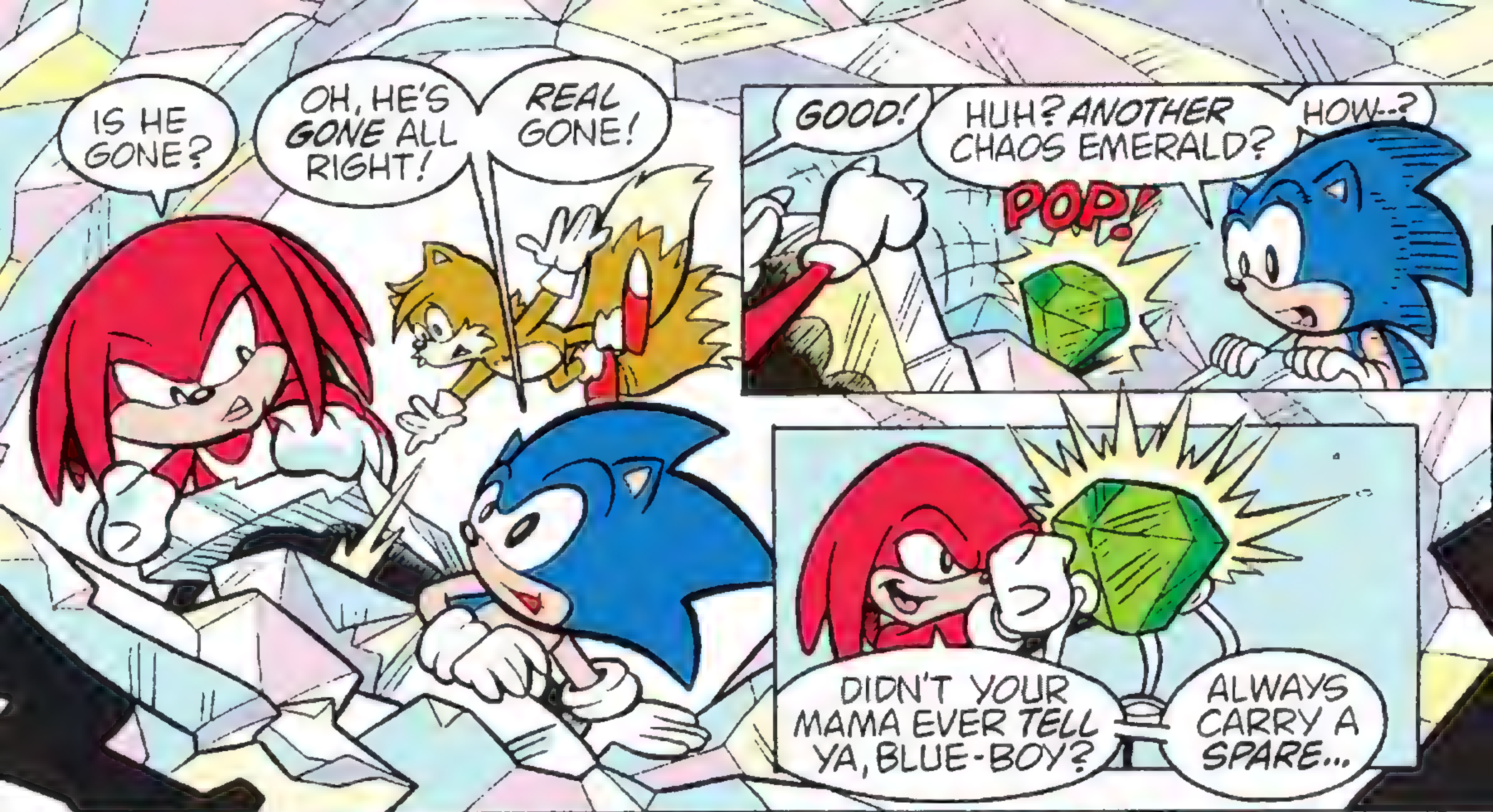
FWA-VOOOOOOM!



HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

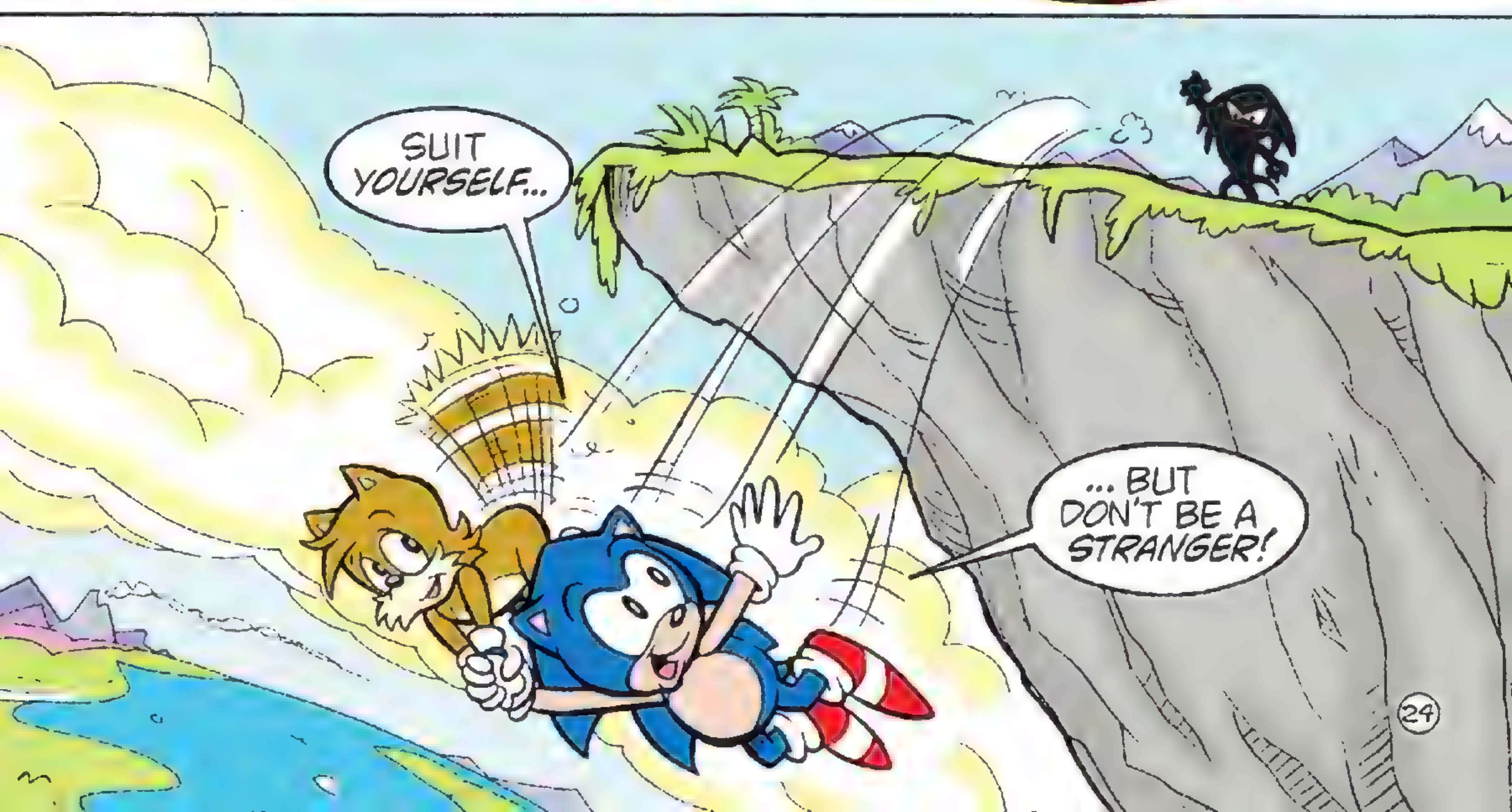
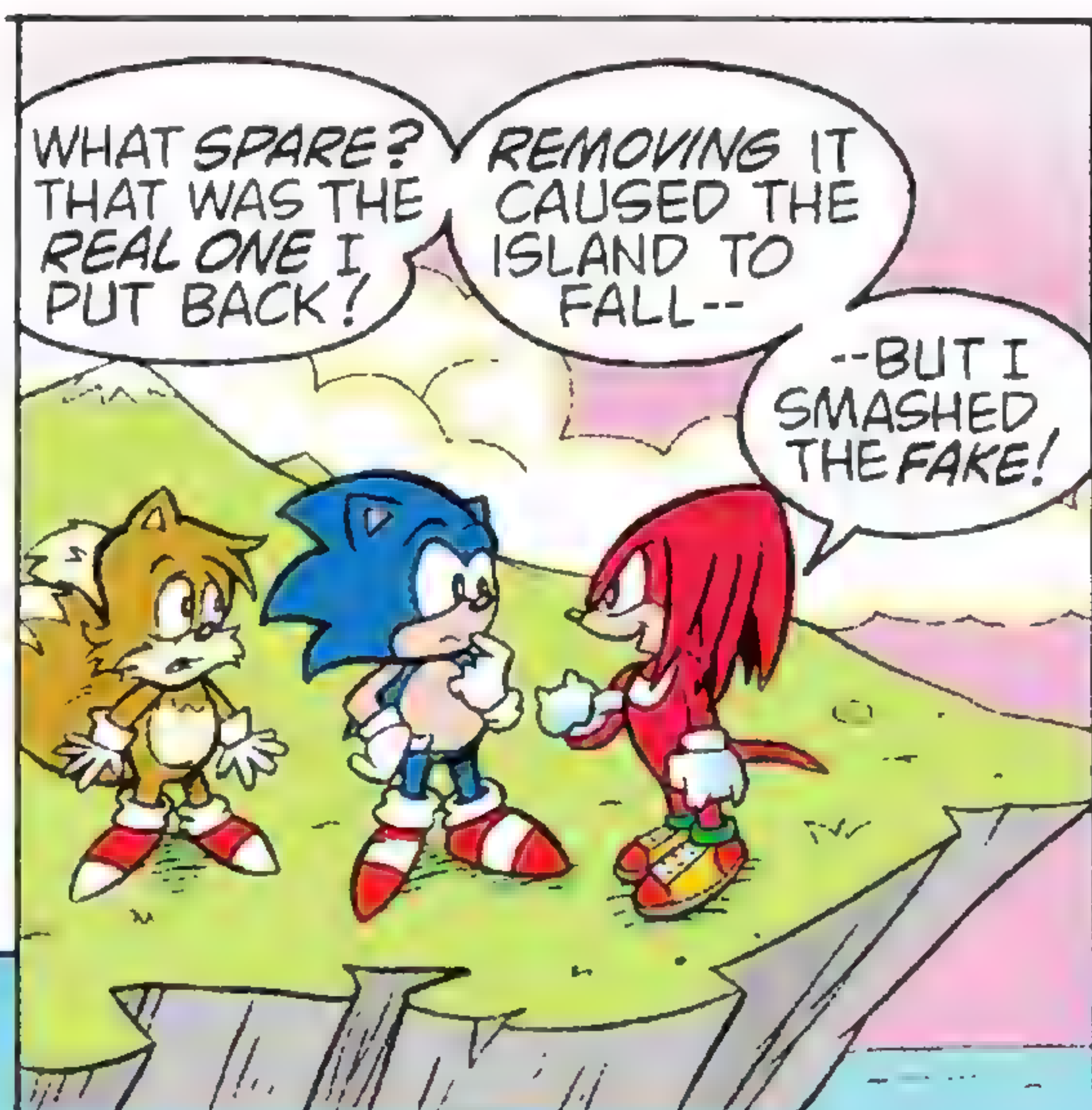
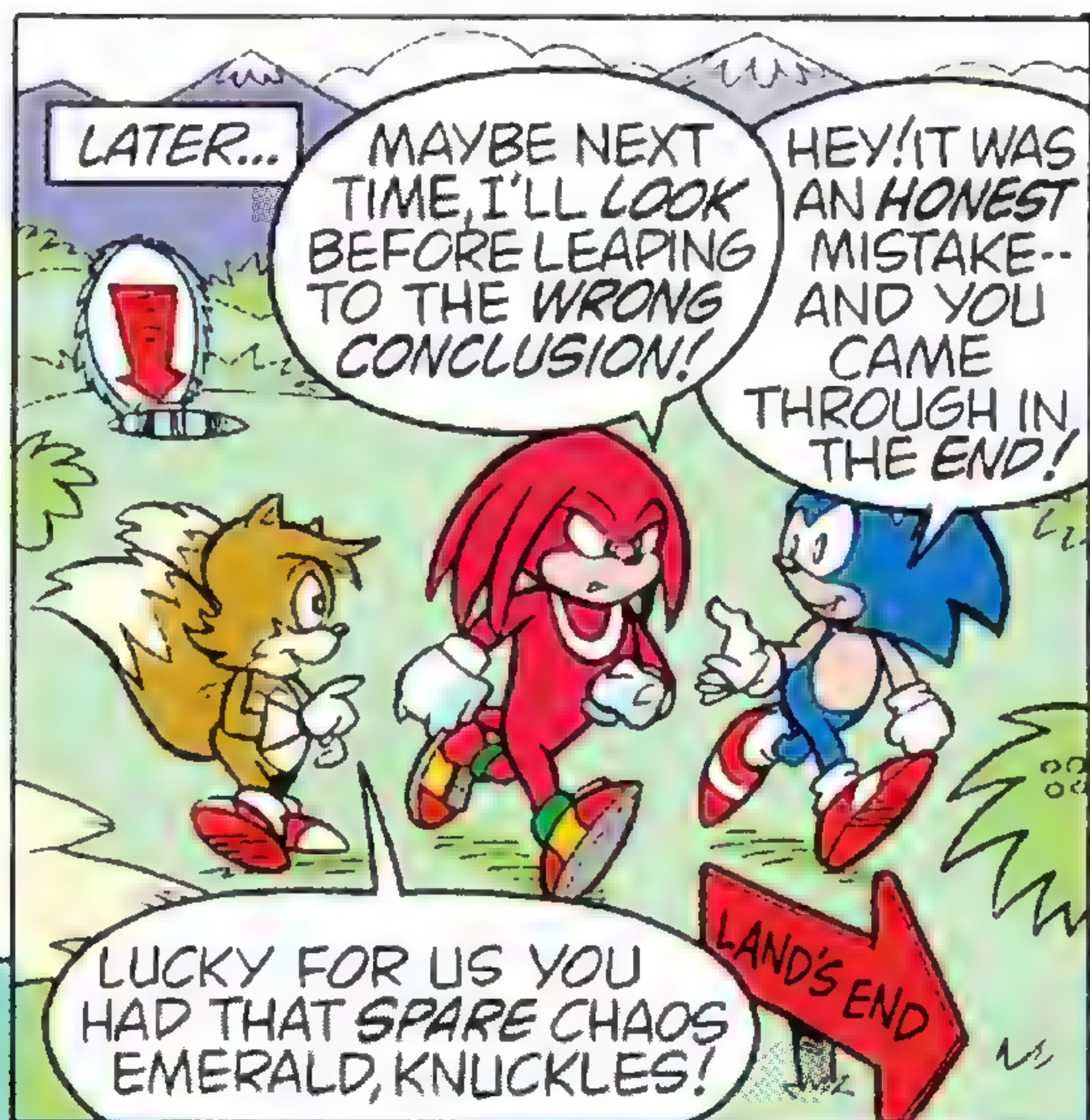


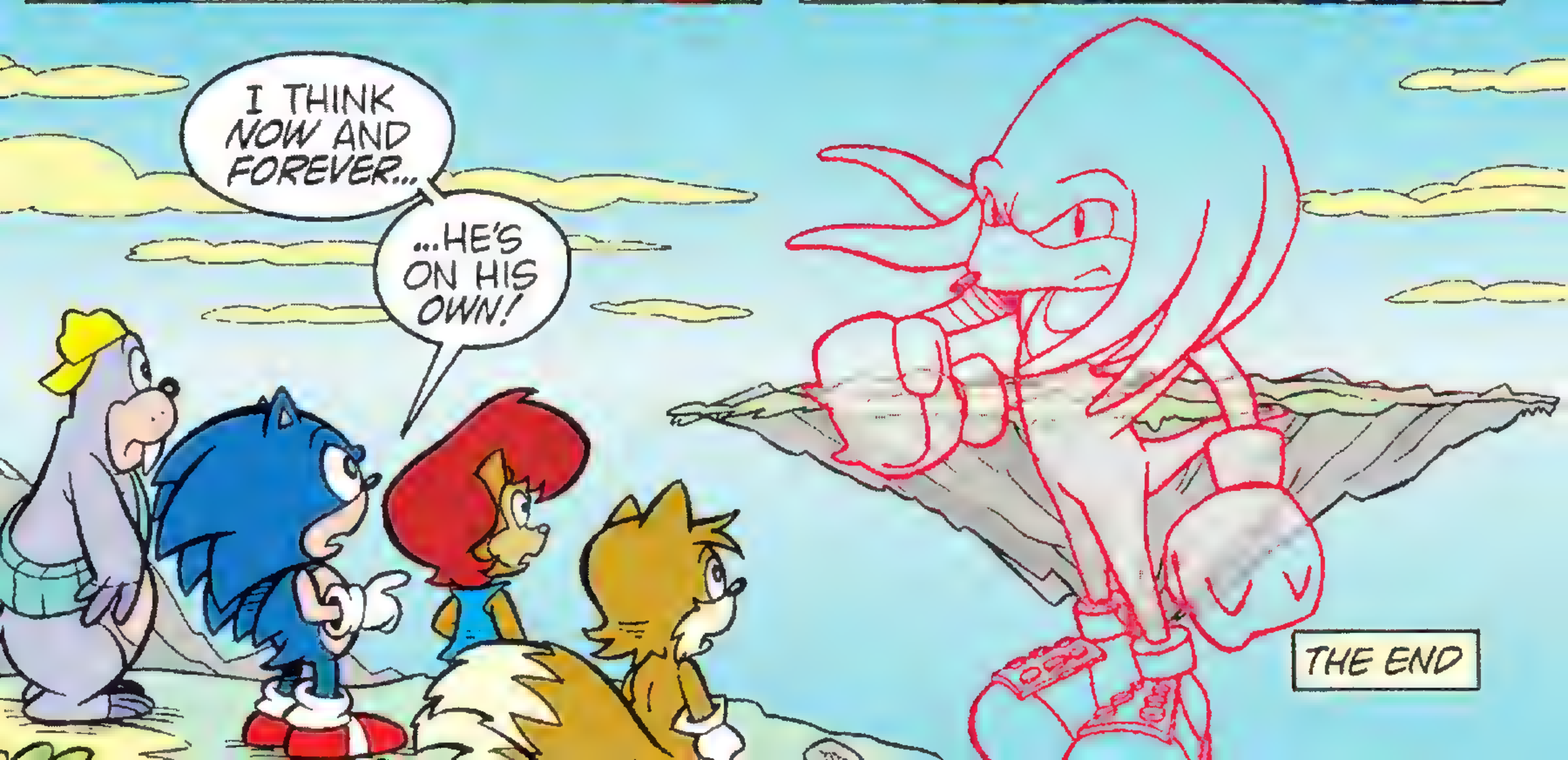




SKA-REEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE







SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™

A QUIET DAY ON
THE *FLOATING ISLAND*...

IN

**FIRE
DRILL**

KA-THOOOM!

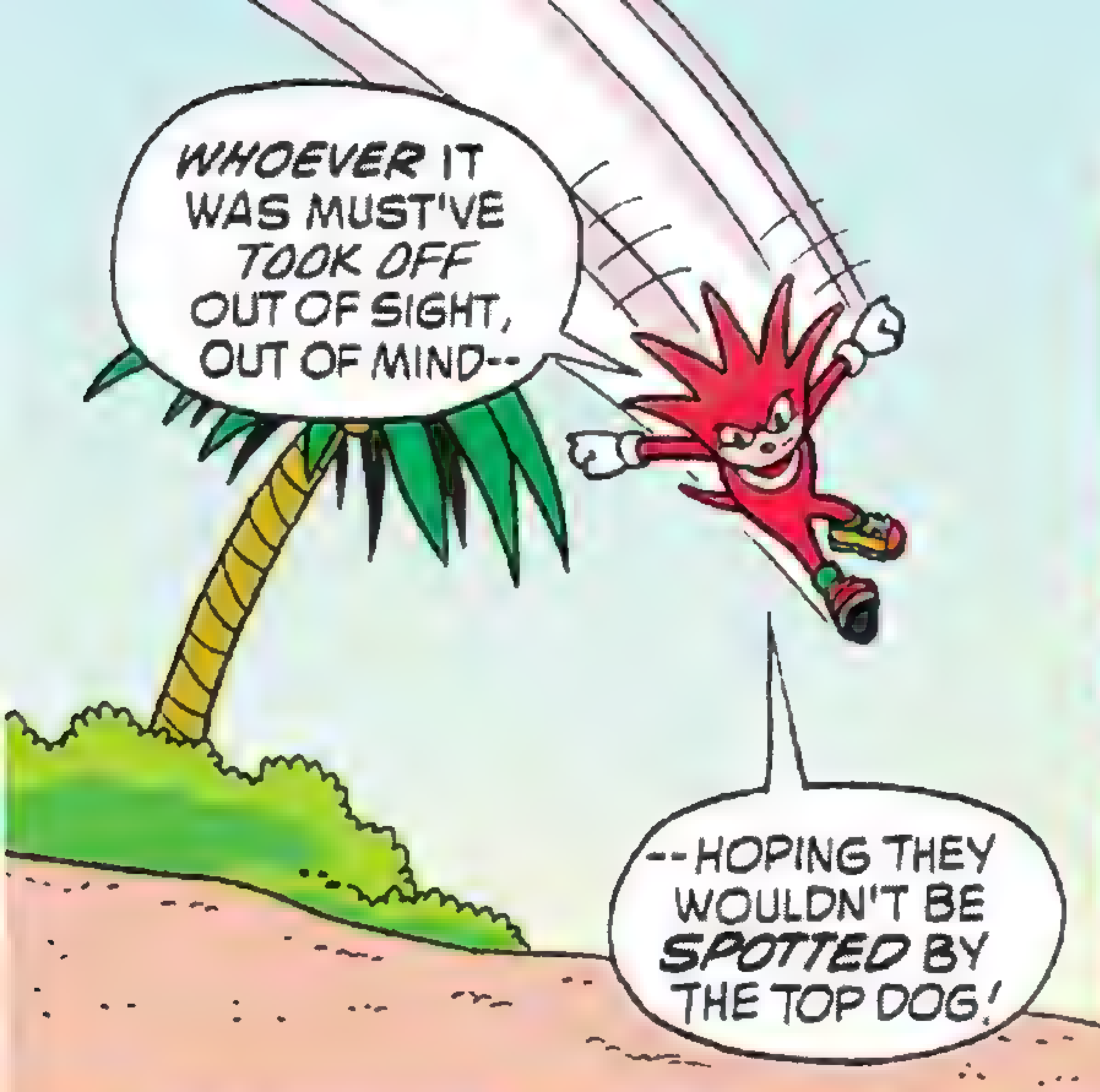
WHAT WAS *THAT*?!
SOME DUDE
STARTING TROUBLE
ON *MY* TURF?

SOUNDS LIKE IT
CAME FROM
THE BEACH!

I'D BETTER *WING*
IT OVER THERE --
REAL FAST!

WHA--?

NOBODY'S HERE!
JUST A *CRATER!*



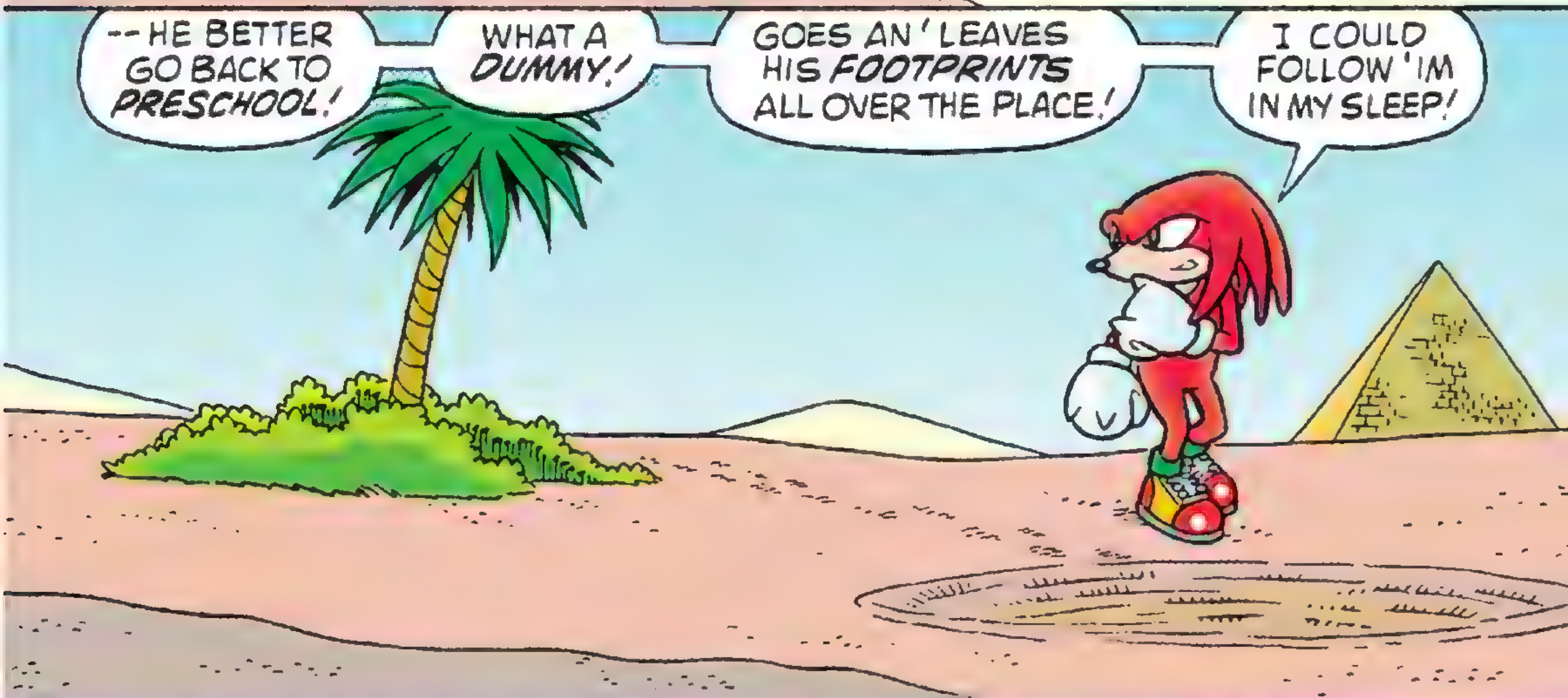
WHOEVER IT
WAS MUST'VE
TOOK OFF
OUT OF SIGHT,
OUT OF MIND--

--HOPING THEY
WOULDN'T BE
SPOTTED BY
THE TOP DOG!



...OR I SHOULD SAY--
TOPECHIDNA!

WELL, IF THIS
GUY *THINKS*
HE'S A **GENIUS**--



-- HE BETTER
GO BACK TO
PRESCHOOL!

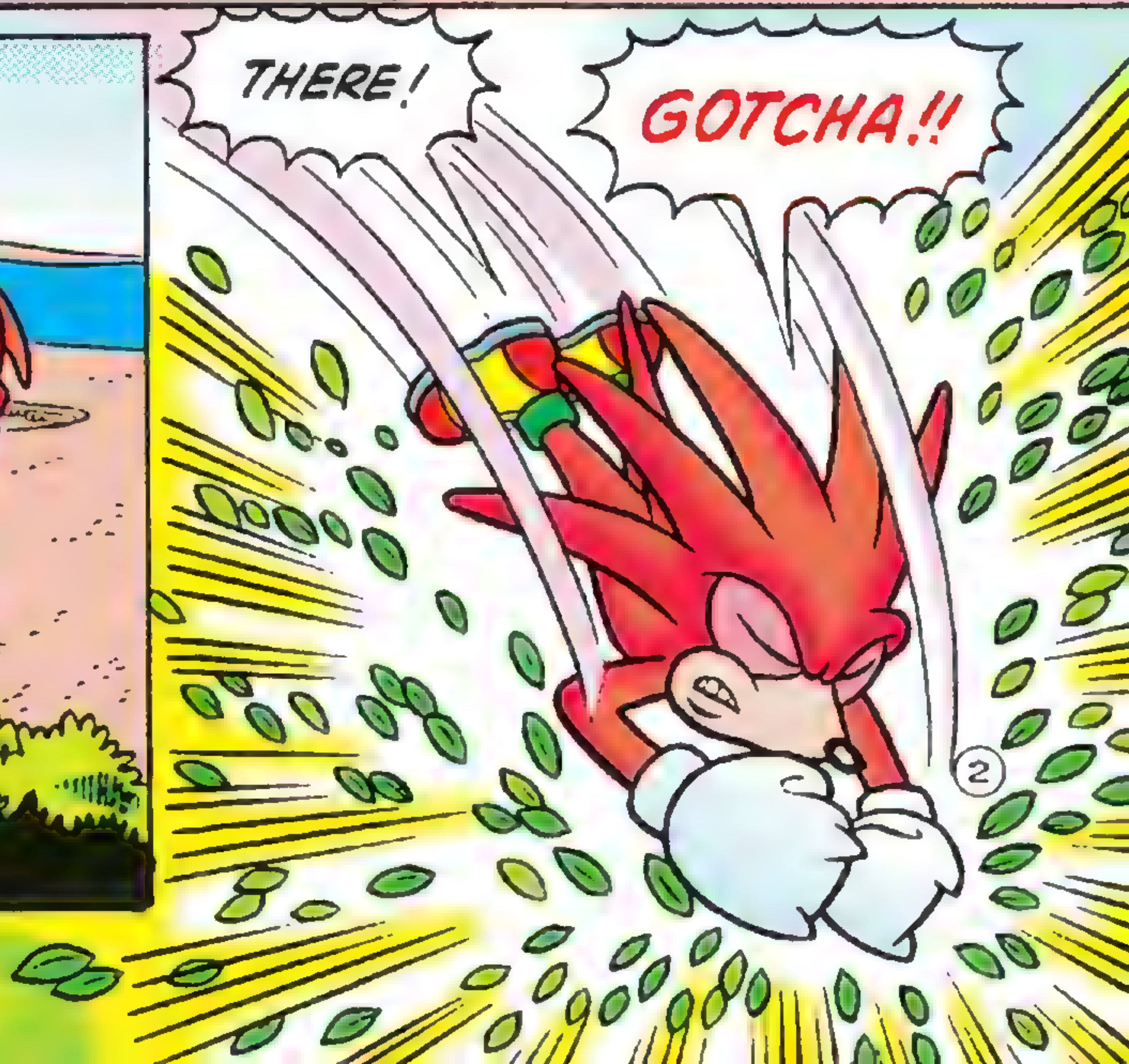
WHAT A
DUMMY!

GOES AN' LEAVES
HIS **FOOTPRINTS**
ALL OVER THE PLACE!

I COULD
FOLLOW 'IM
IN MY SLEEP!



A **BLIND** PERSON
COULD **SEE** THEY
LEAD RIGHT TO--



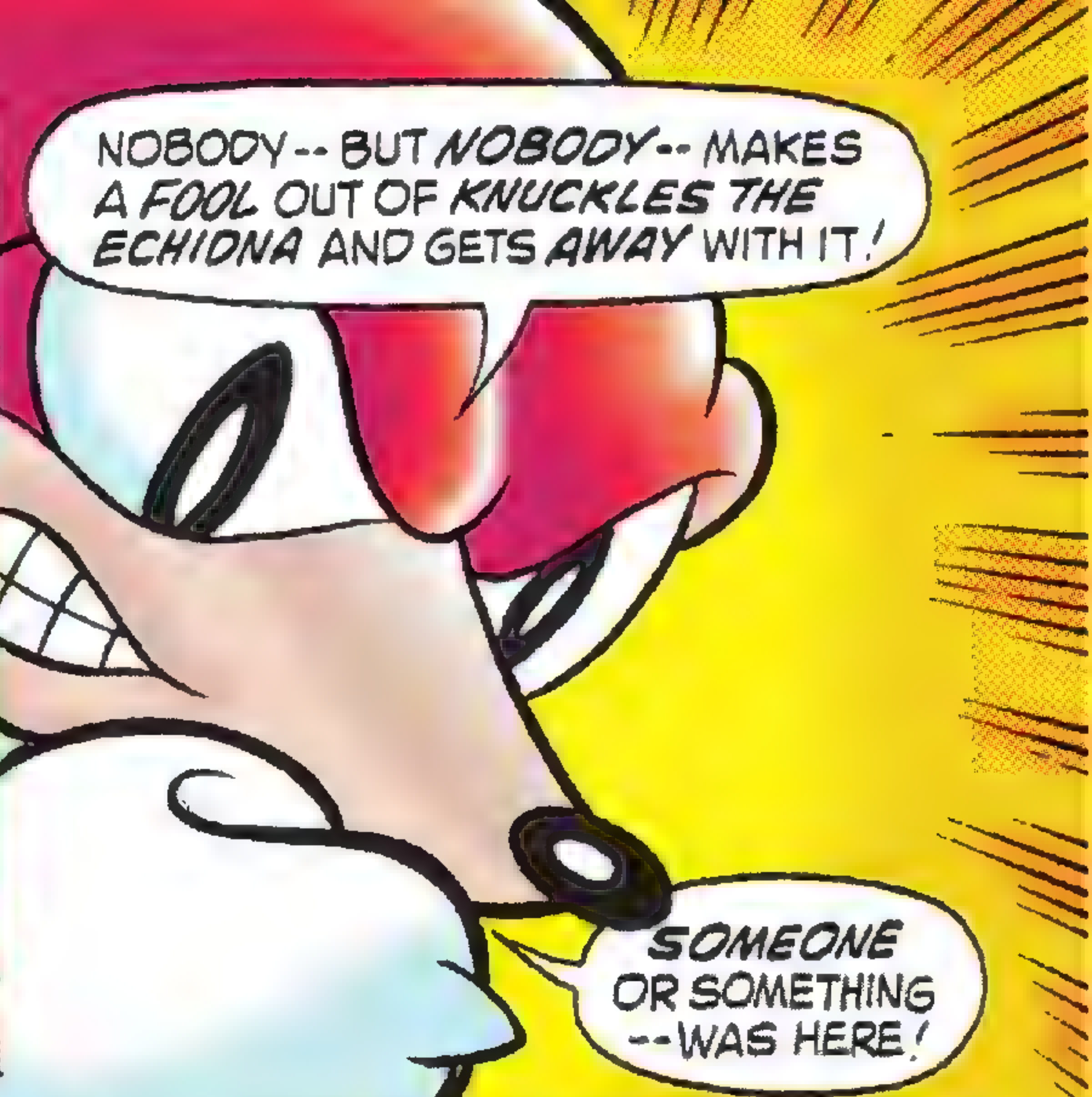
THERE!

GOTCHA!!



HUH?

WHERE'D HE GO?



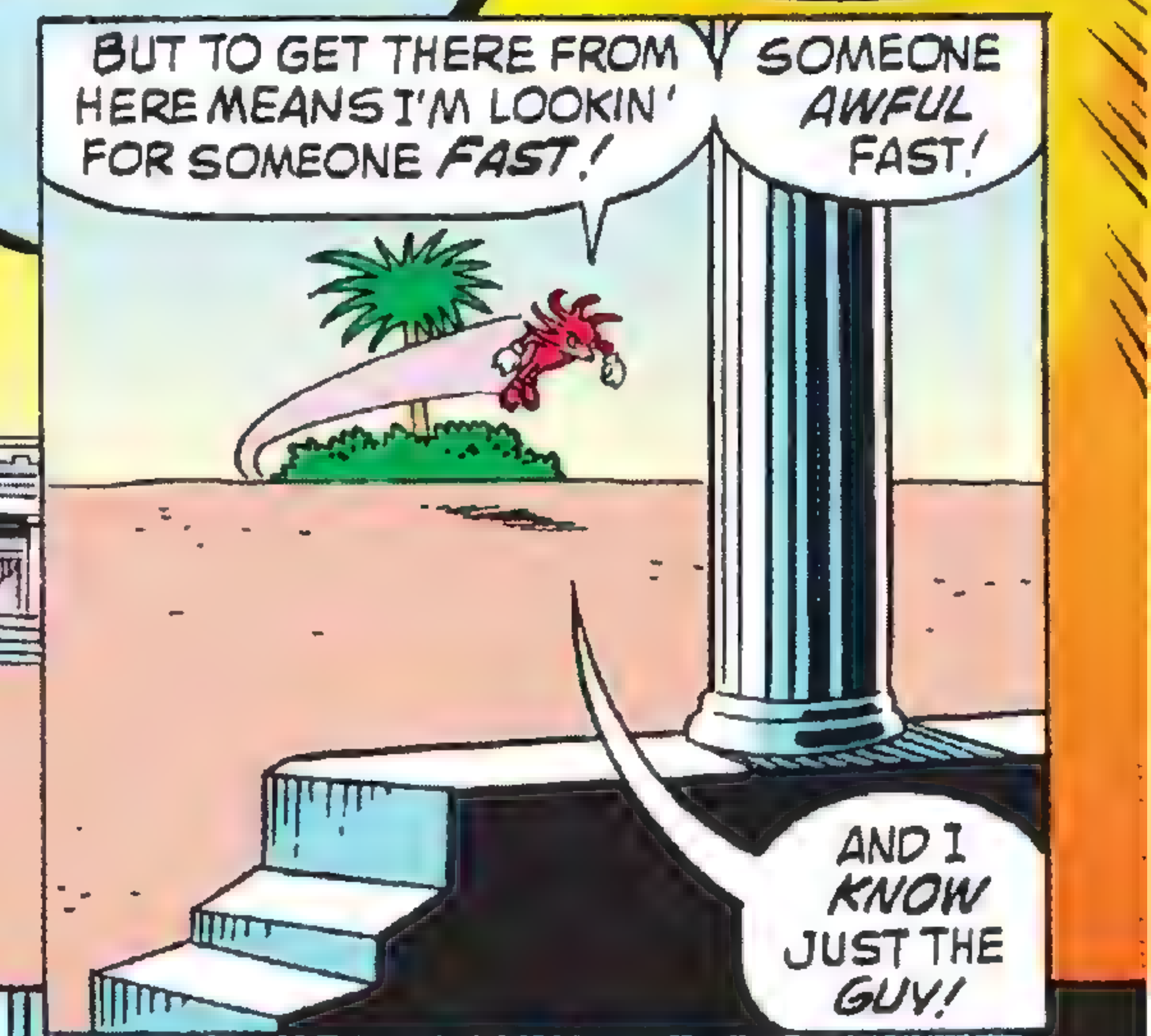
NOBODY-- BUT *NOBODY*-- MAKES A FOOL OUT OF KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

SOMEONE OR SOMETHING --WAS HERE!



THE *ONLY* PLACE THEY COULD GO *WITHOUT* ME SEEING HIM--

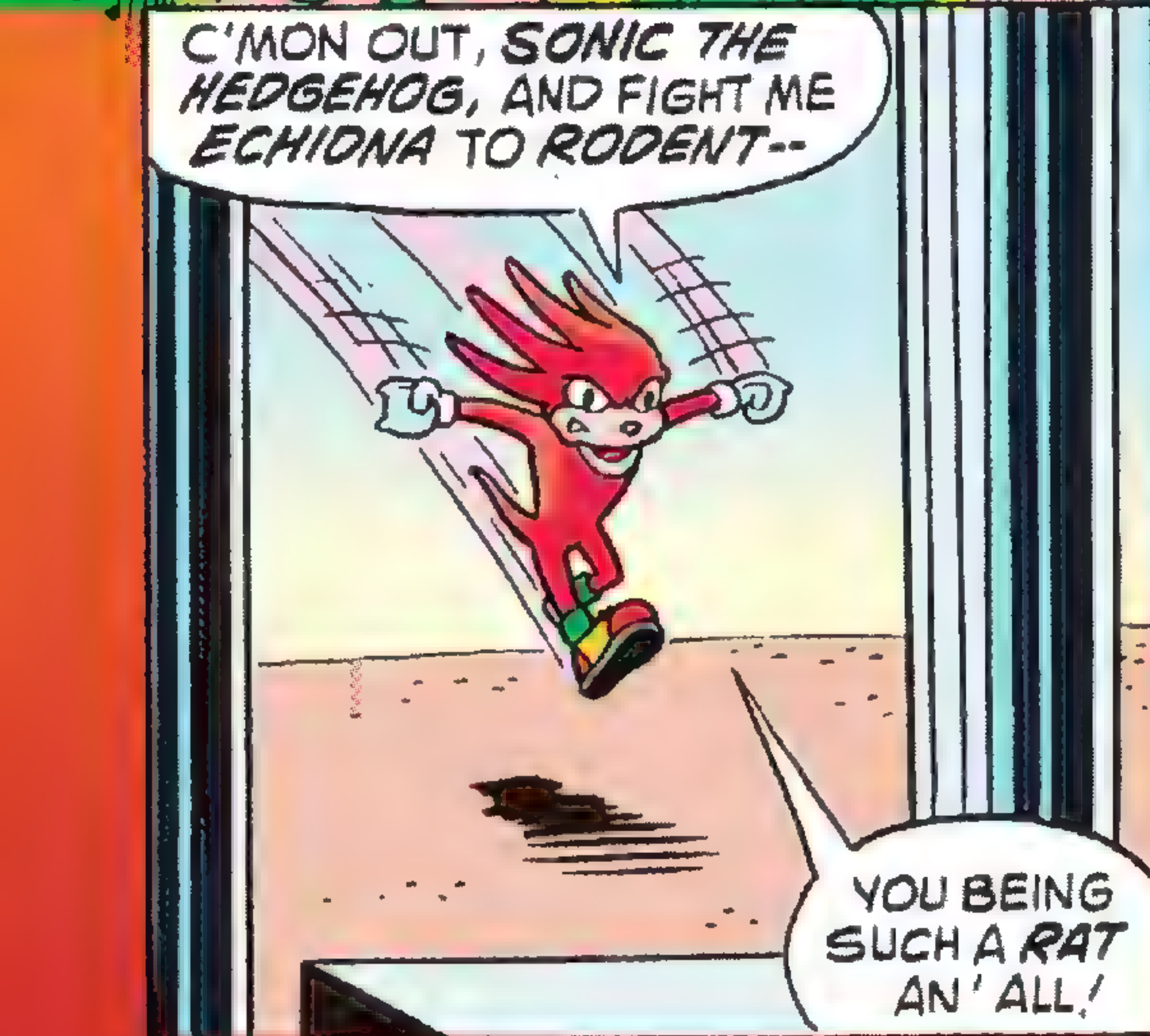
-- IS IN THE RUINS OF THE SANDOPOLIS ZONE!



BUT TO GET THERE FROM HERE MEANS I'M LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE *FAST*!

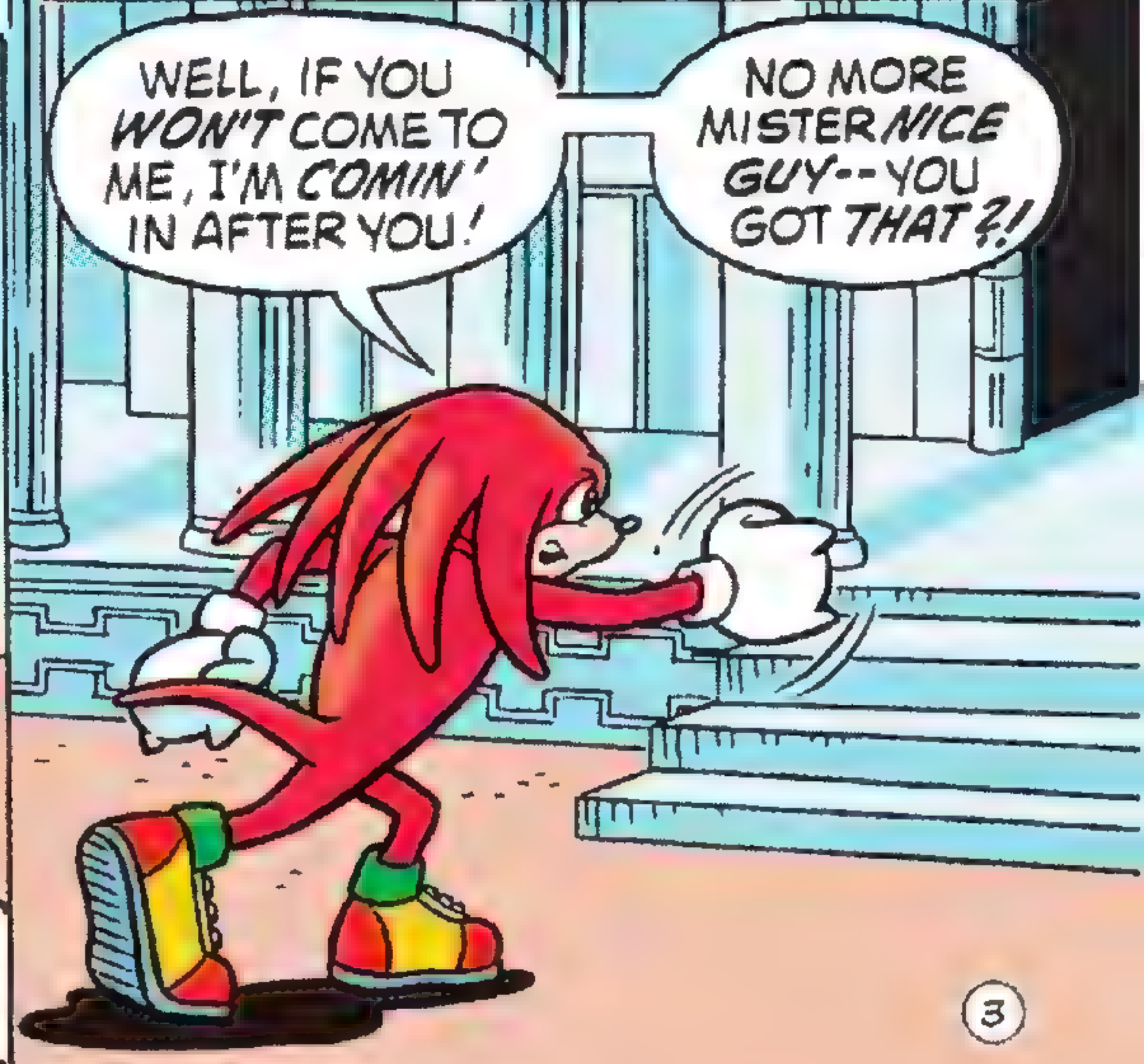
SOMEONE *AWFUL* FAST!

AND I *KNOW* JUST THE GUY!



C'MON OUT, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, AND FIGHT ME ECHIDNA TO RODENT--

YOU BEING SUCH A RAT AN' ALL!



WELL, IF YOU *WON'T* COME TO ME, I'M *COMIN'* IN AFTER YOU!

NO MORE MISTER *NICE* GUY-- YOU GOT THAT?!



AND I'M GOING
TO MAKE YOU
PAY FOR
DRAGGIN' ME
INTO THE
DARK!

OOOO,
HOW I
HATE
THE DARK!



SNAKT!



HUH?



KER-RAAAAAASH!
AWWP!



THAT'S IT!
THAT'S IT!!!

SO YOU
WANNA PLAY
HIDE 'N' SEEK,
EH?



I GOT A
BETTER
GAME--

I CALL IT 'A
FISTFUL OF
KNUCKLES'!

SO IF YOU
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOOD FOR
YOU--

--YOU'LL DO THIS EASY OR
I'LL **REALLY** BRING THE
HOUSE **DOWN** ON YOU!

YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM ME
FOR LONG!

DON'T YOU
KNOW--

--I'M THE **GUARDIAN**
OF THIS ISLAND?!

YOU **CAN'T** MESS
AROUND WHILE I'M
ON WATCH!

YE-OW!

WHERE'D THAT
COME FROM?!

SOMETHIN'
FUNNY'S **GOIN'**
ON HERE!!

WELL,
ISN'T **THIS**
SPECIAL!

THE **WALL**
REVEALS IT'S
A **DOOR**!

THE
PROBLEM
IS--
HOW COME
I'M **NOT**
LAUGHIN'?

THUD!

SINCE THERE'S
NO WAY ANYONE
COULD'VE GOTTEN
PAST ME--



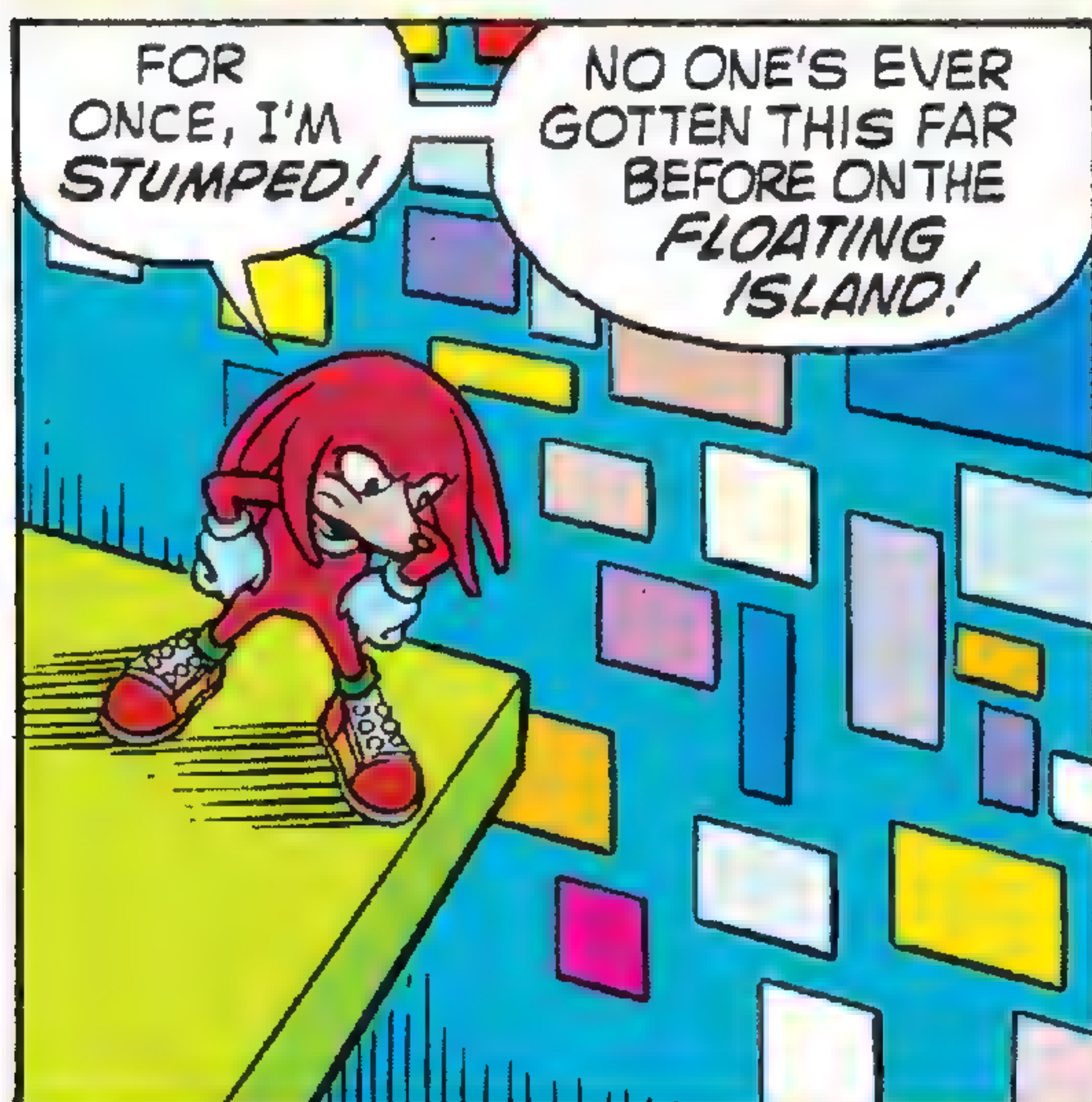
-- IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS MY **BEST** OPTION!

I JUST WISH **FATHER** HAD TAUGHT ME **MORE** ABOUT THIS PLACE!



THIS PLACE IS **FAR OUT!**

IT'S LIKE ENTERING ANOTHER WORLD!



FOR ONCE, I'M **STUMPED!**

NO ONE'S EVER GOTTEN THIS FAR BEFORE ON THE **FLOATING ISLAND!**



I MAY KNOW **MORE** ABOUT THE ISLAND THAN **ANYONE** ELSE--

--BUT I GUESS DAD **FORGOT** TO FILL ME IN ON THIS **SECRET PLACE!**



I BET I'M GOING WHERE NO **ECHIDNA** HAS GONE BEF--!

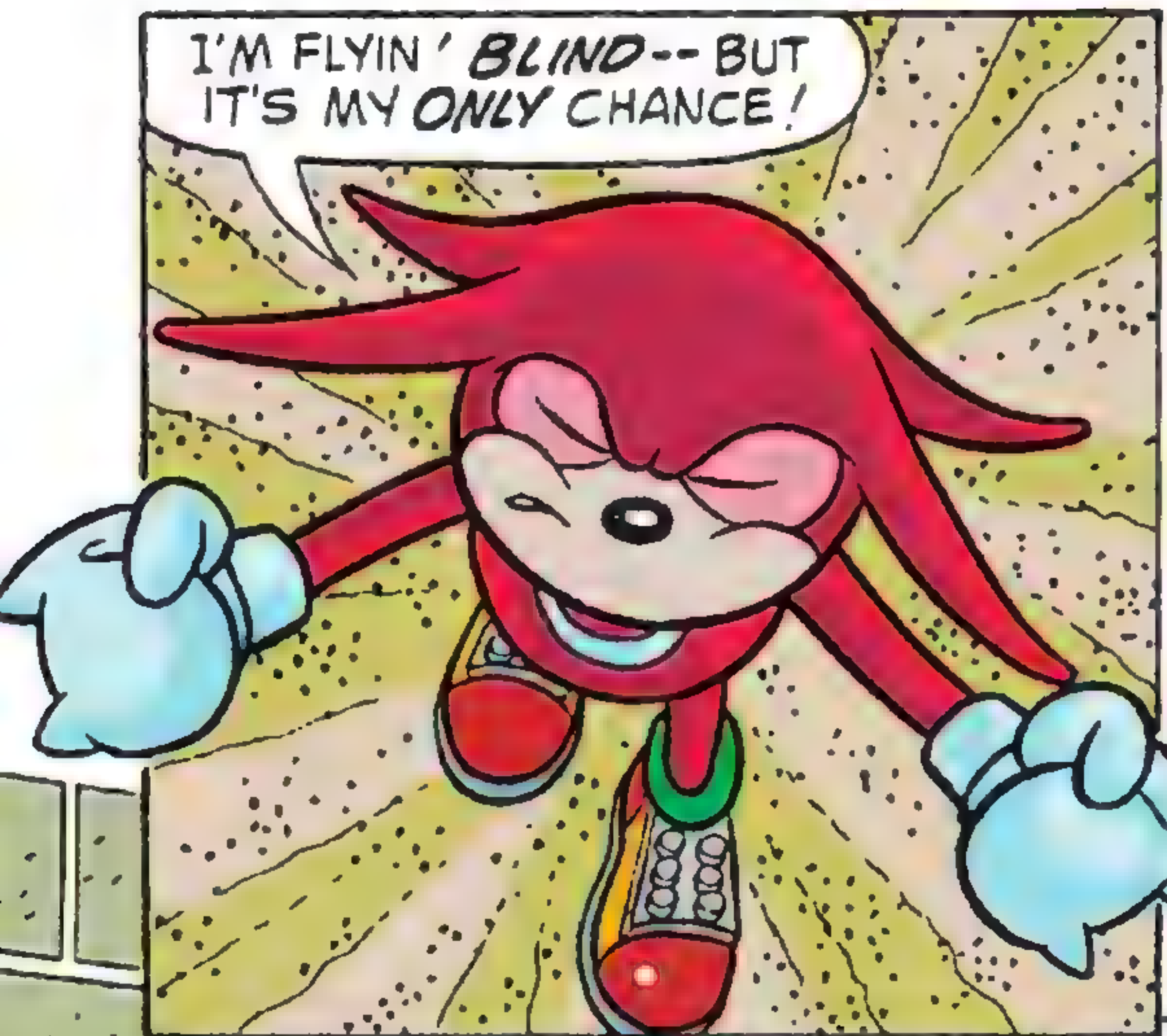
WOOF! *



SANDFALL!

PTUI!!

BETTER ACT FAST OR THIS KID IS GOING **DOWN** FOR THE **COUNT!**



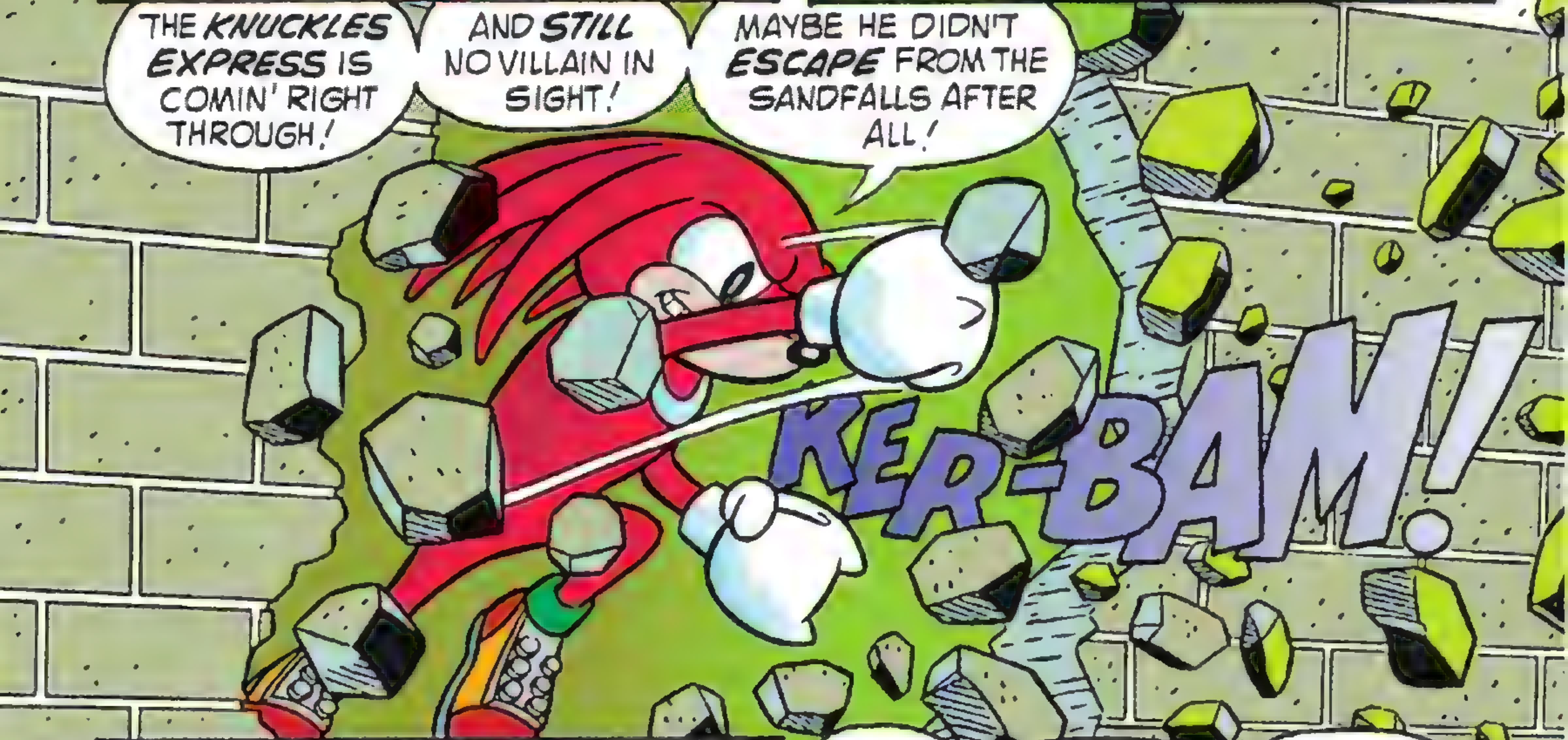
I'M FLYIN' *BLIND*-- BUT IT'S MY *ONLY* CHANCE!



I *DID* IT!

DIDN'T GET ME FAR THOUGH!

ANOTHER WALL!

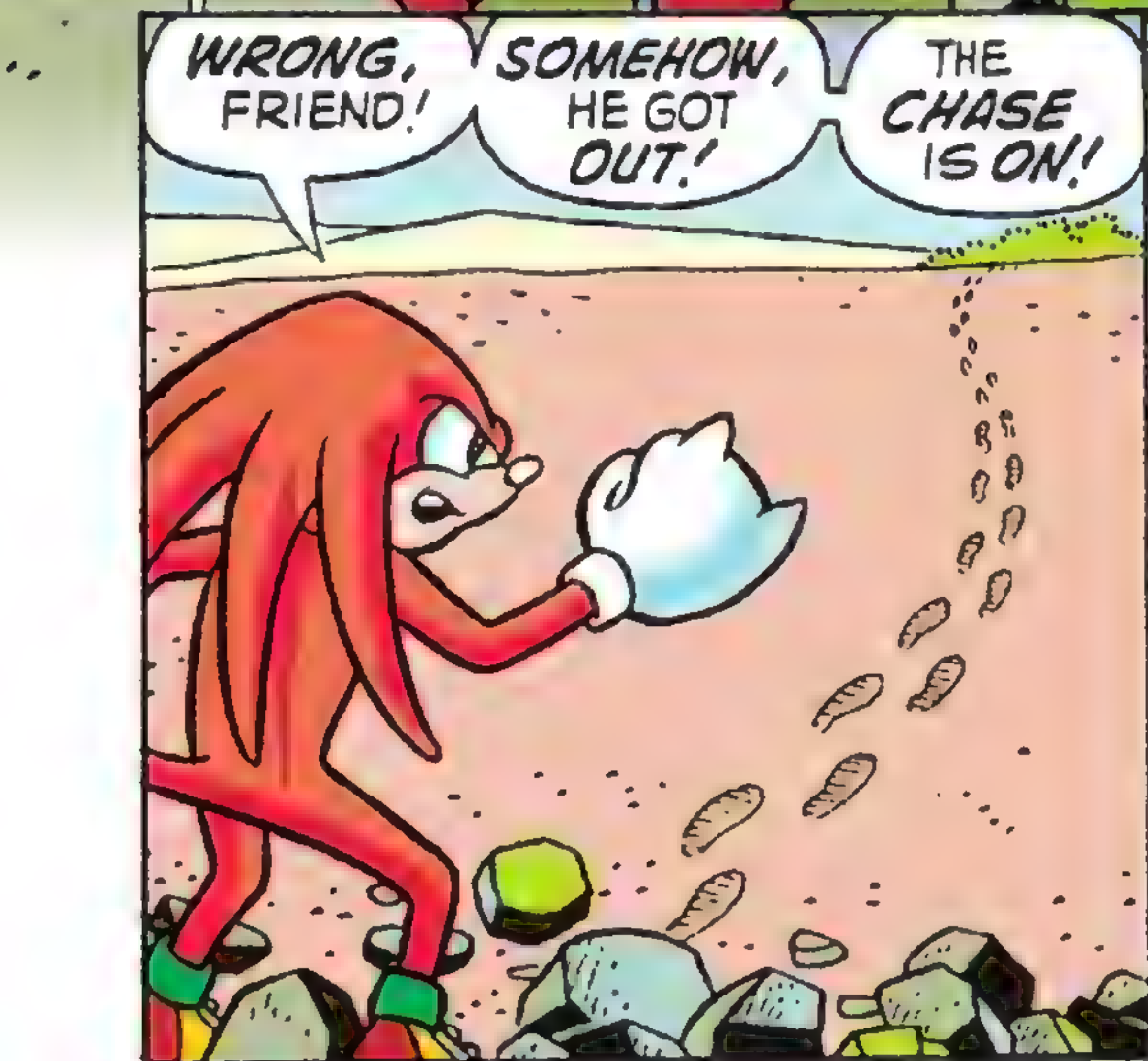


THE *KNUCKLES EXPRESS* IS COMIN' RIGHT THROUGH!

AND *STILL* NO VILLAIN IN SIGHT!

MAYBE HE *DIDN'T* ESCAPE FROM THE SANDFALLS AFTER ALL!

KER-BAM!



WRONG, FRIEND!

SOMEHOW, HE GOT OUT!

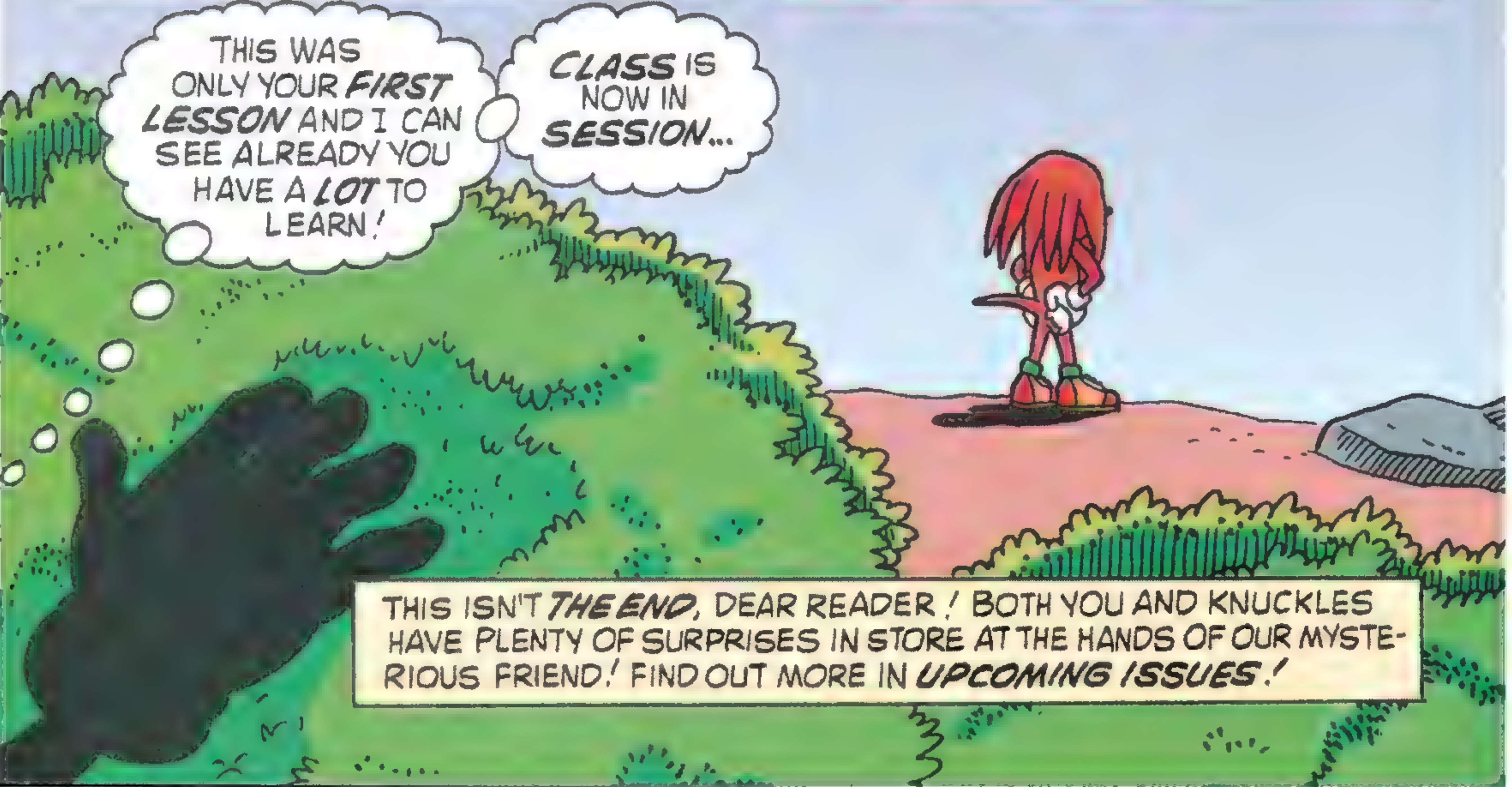
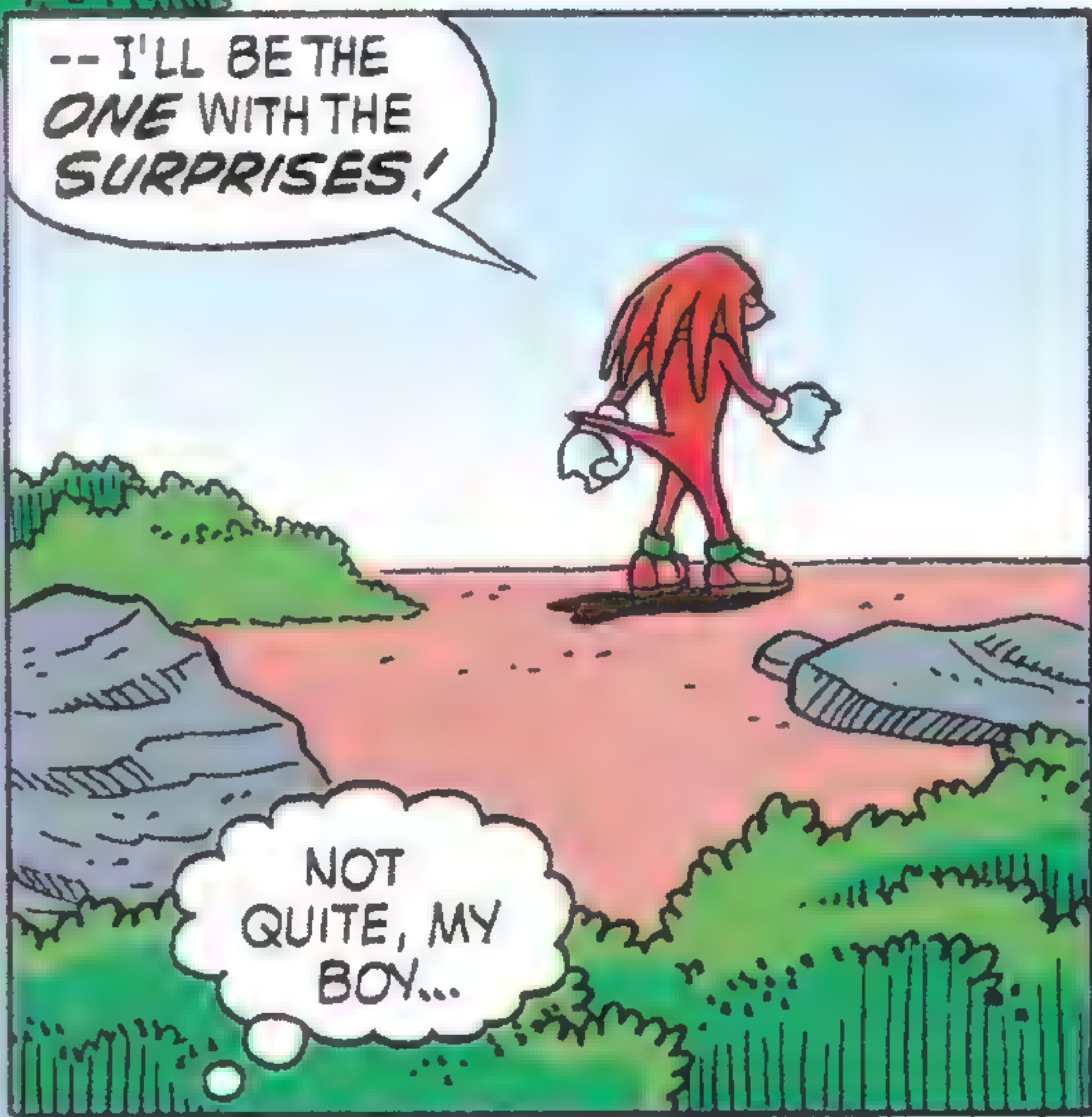
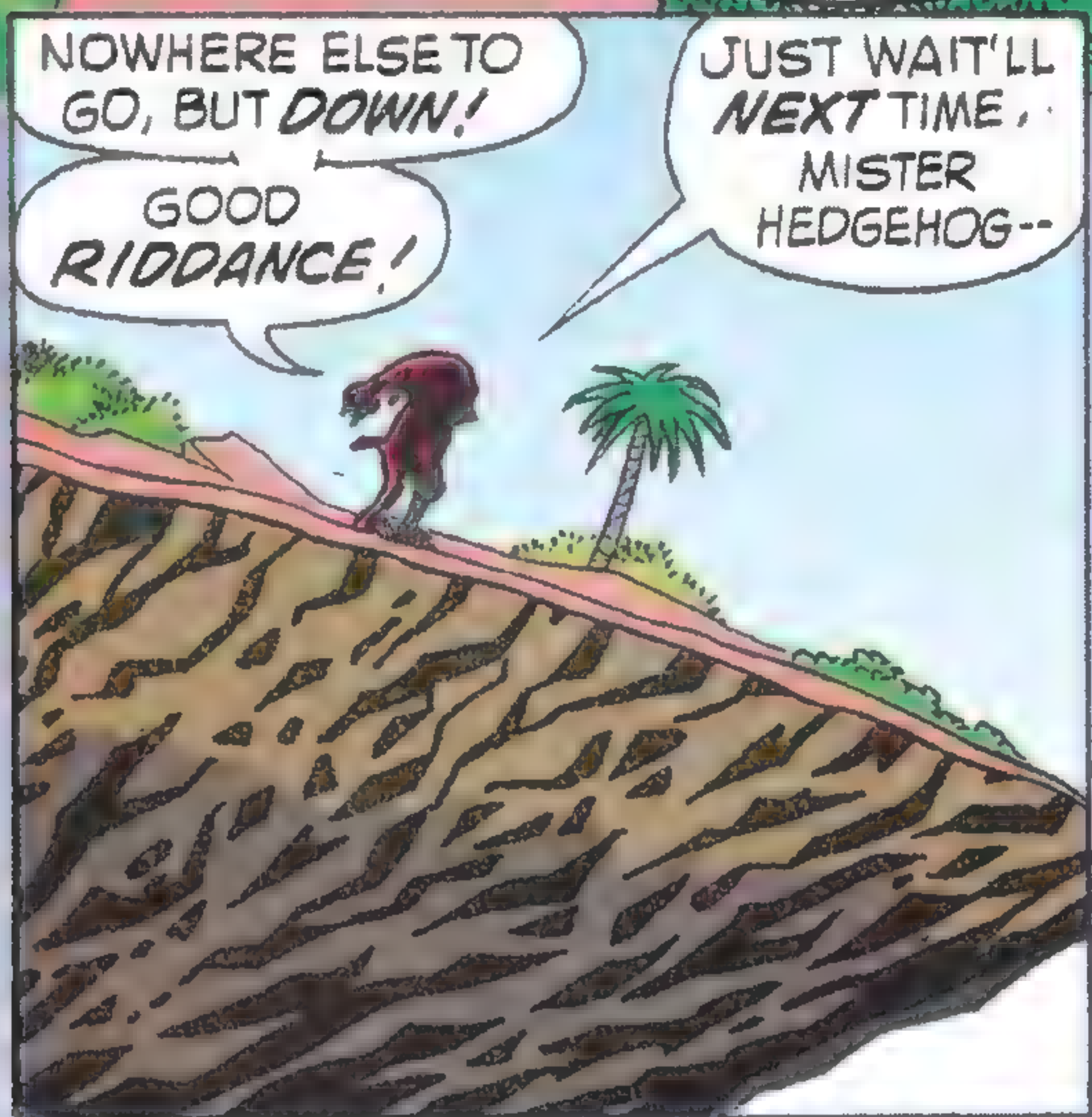
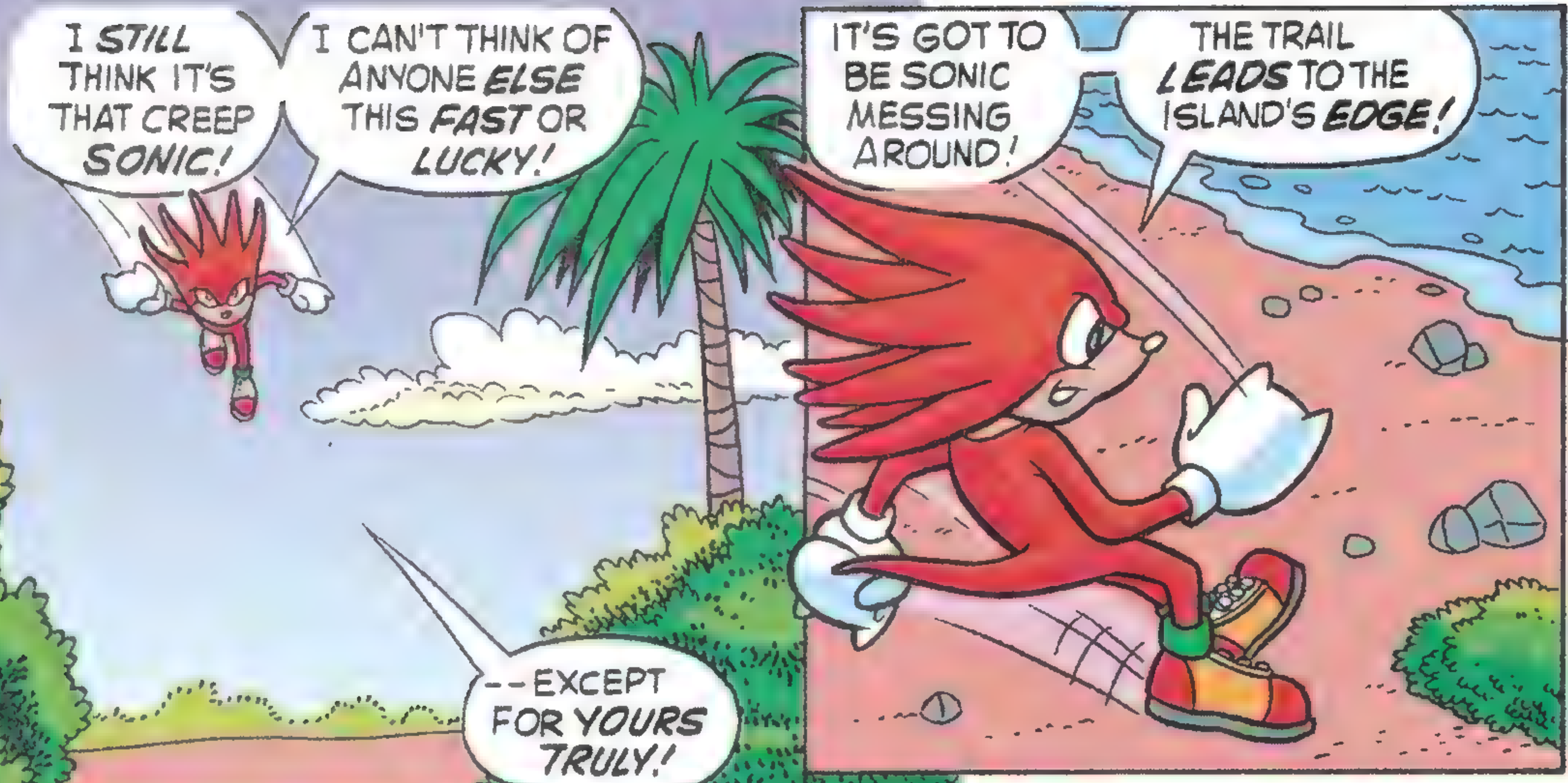
THE *CHASE* IS ON!



ONLY NOW--

IT'S *PERSONAL*!

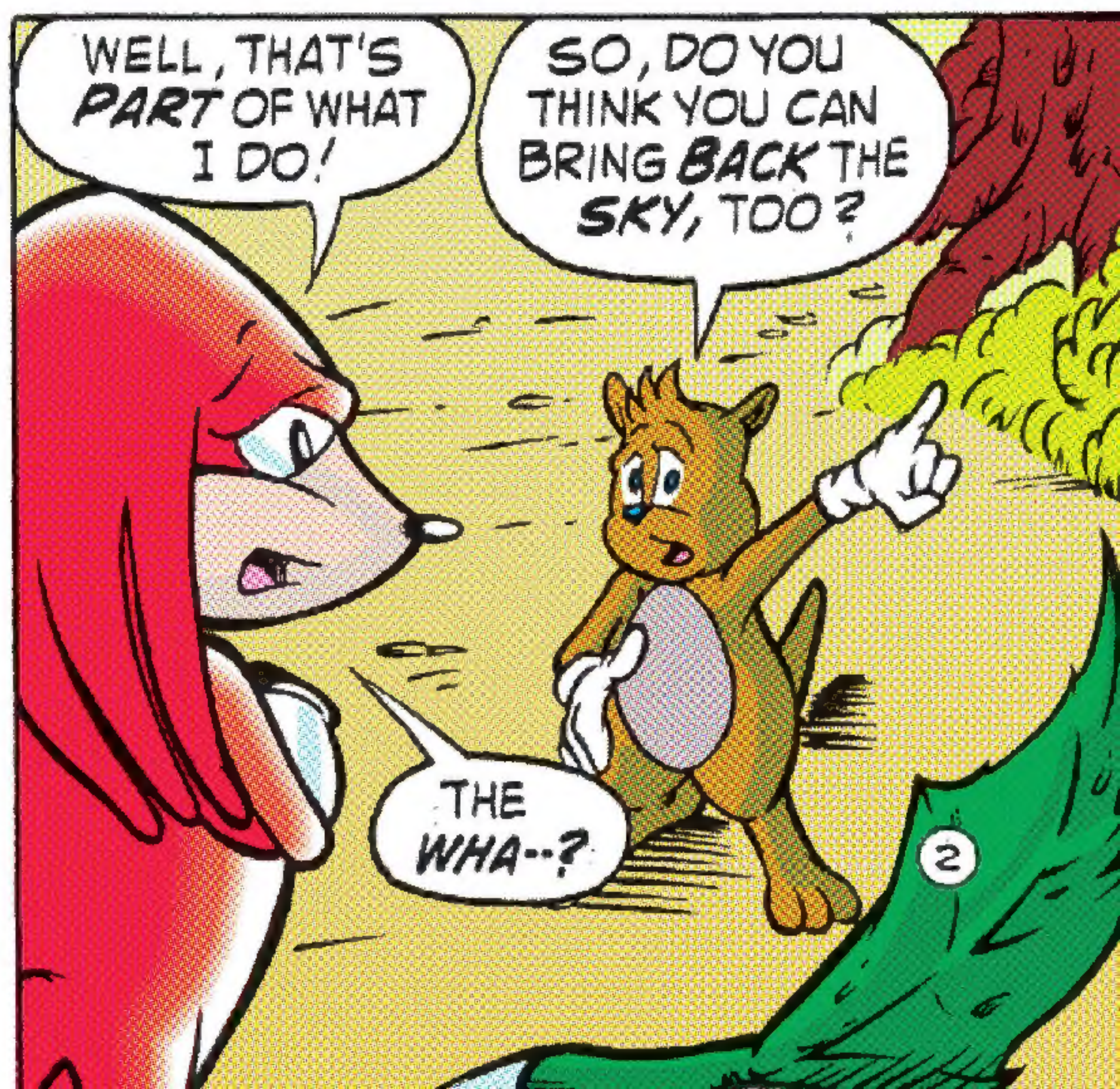
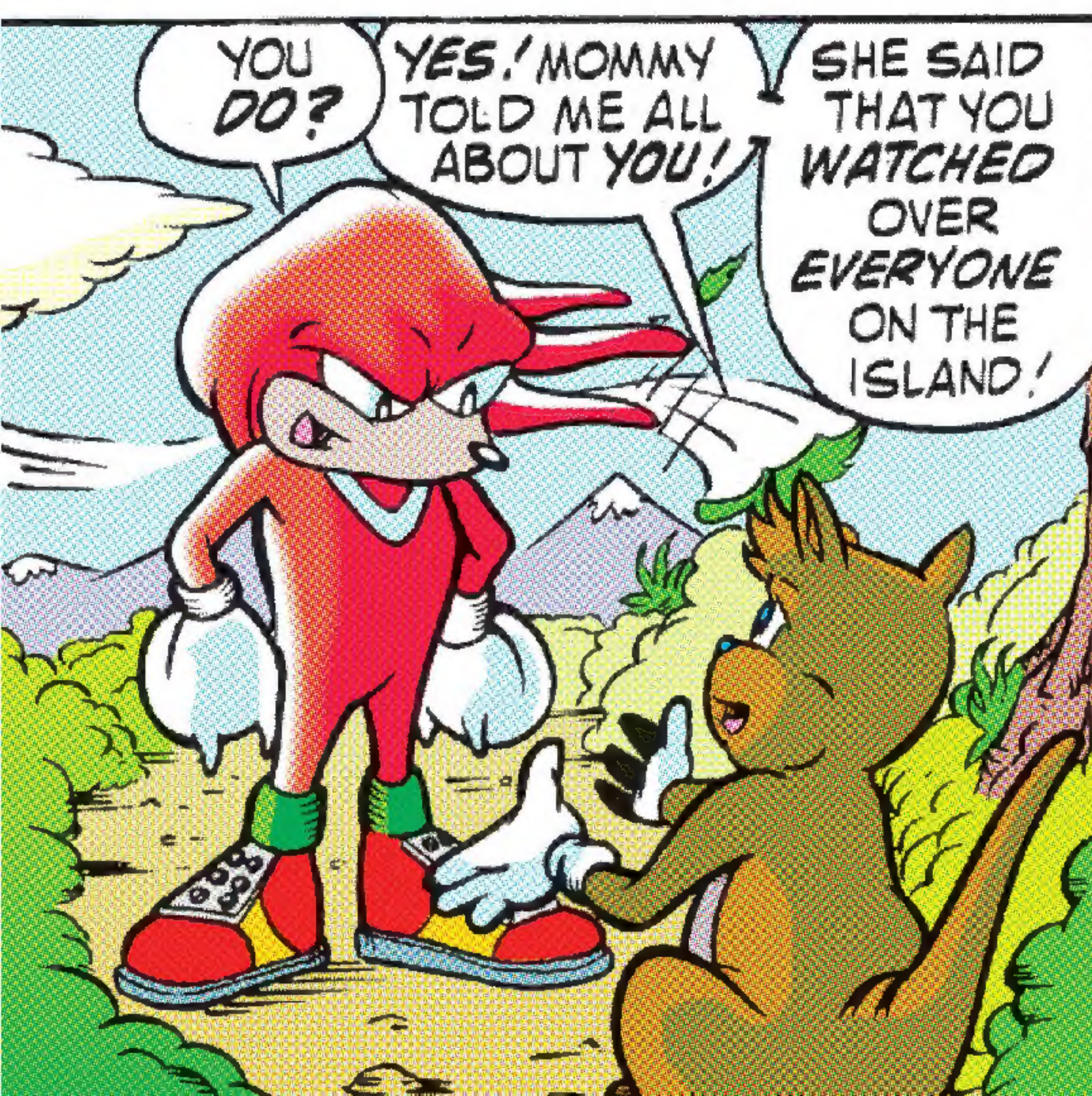
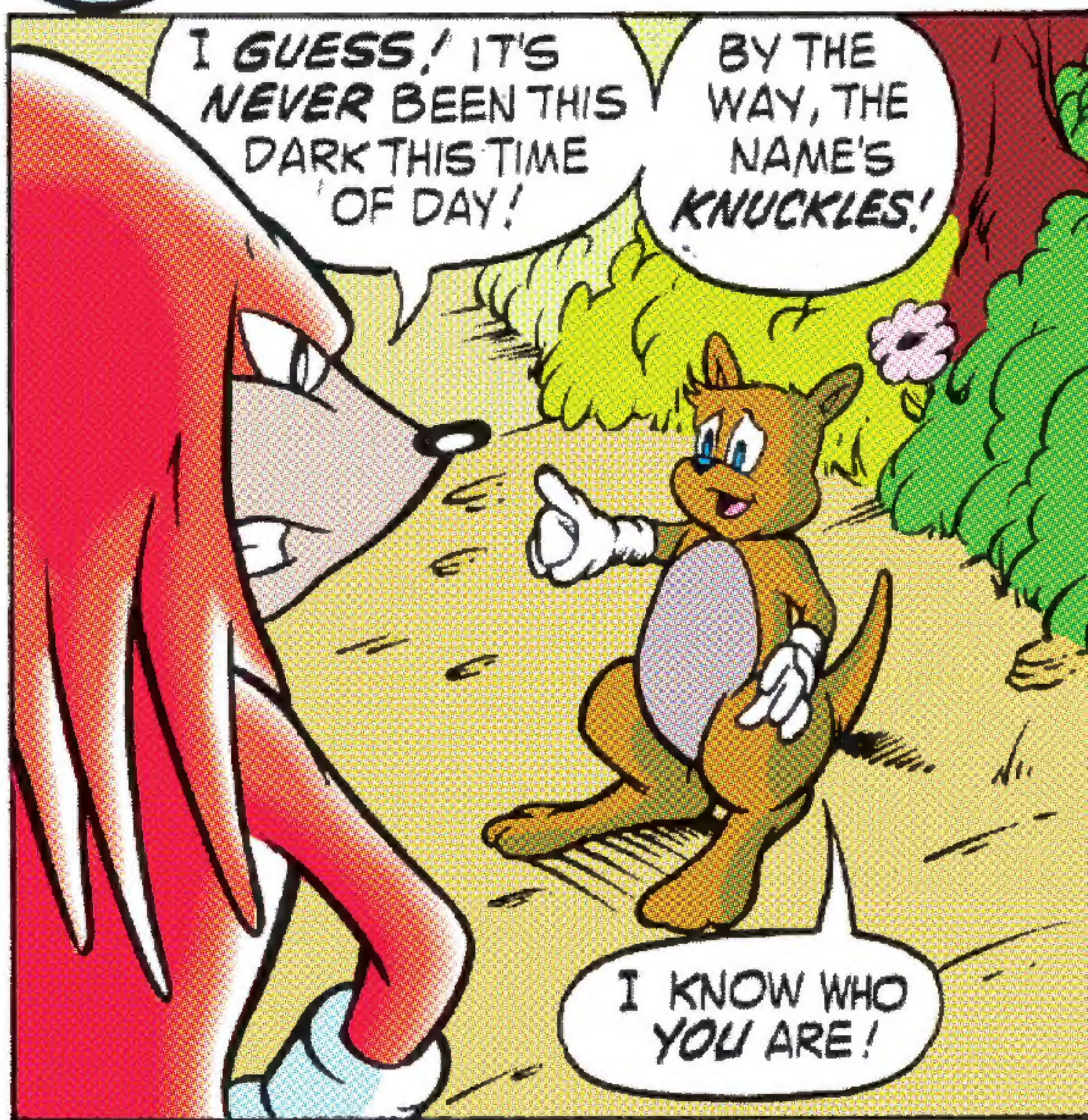
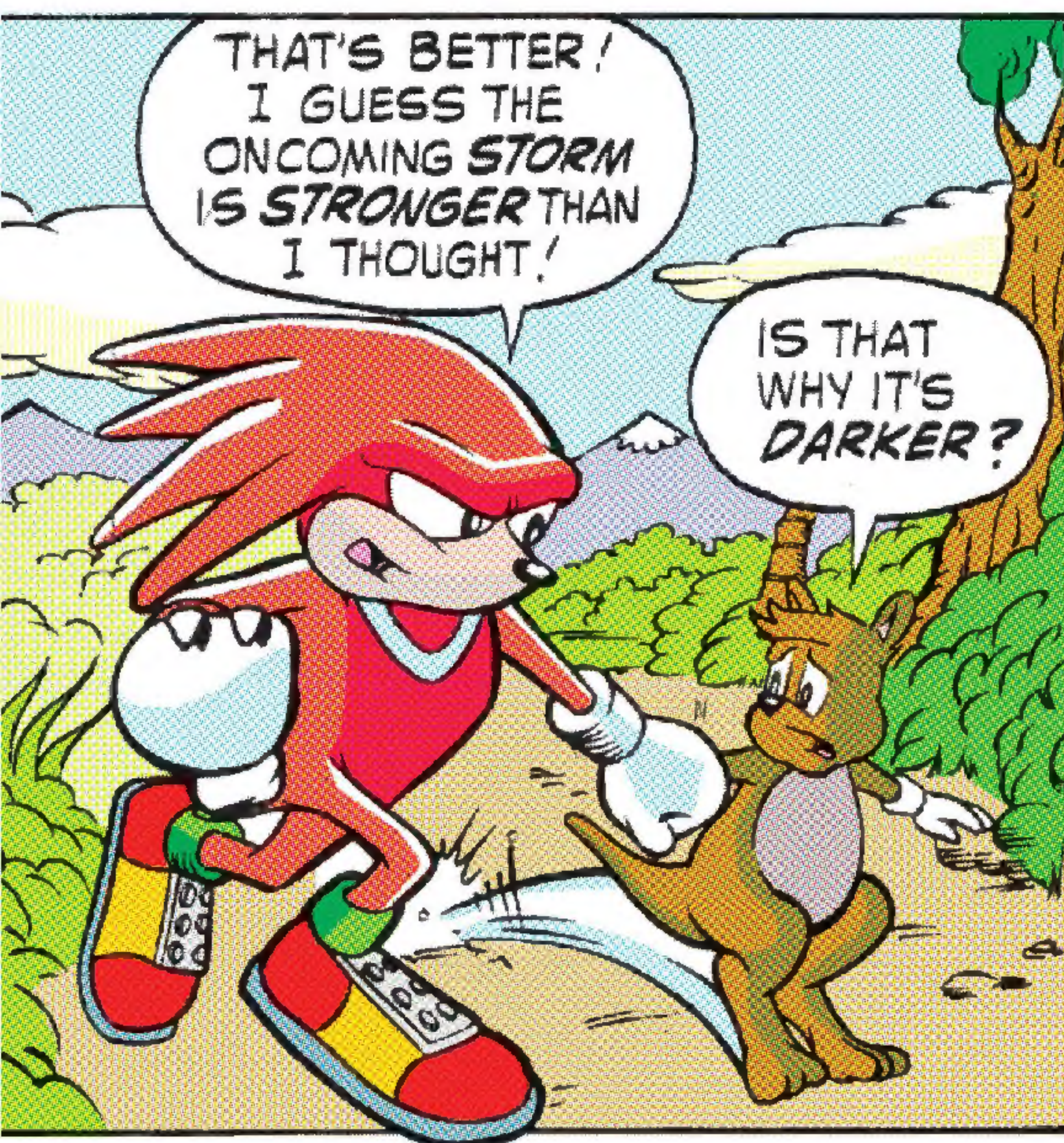
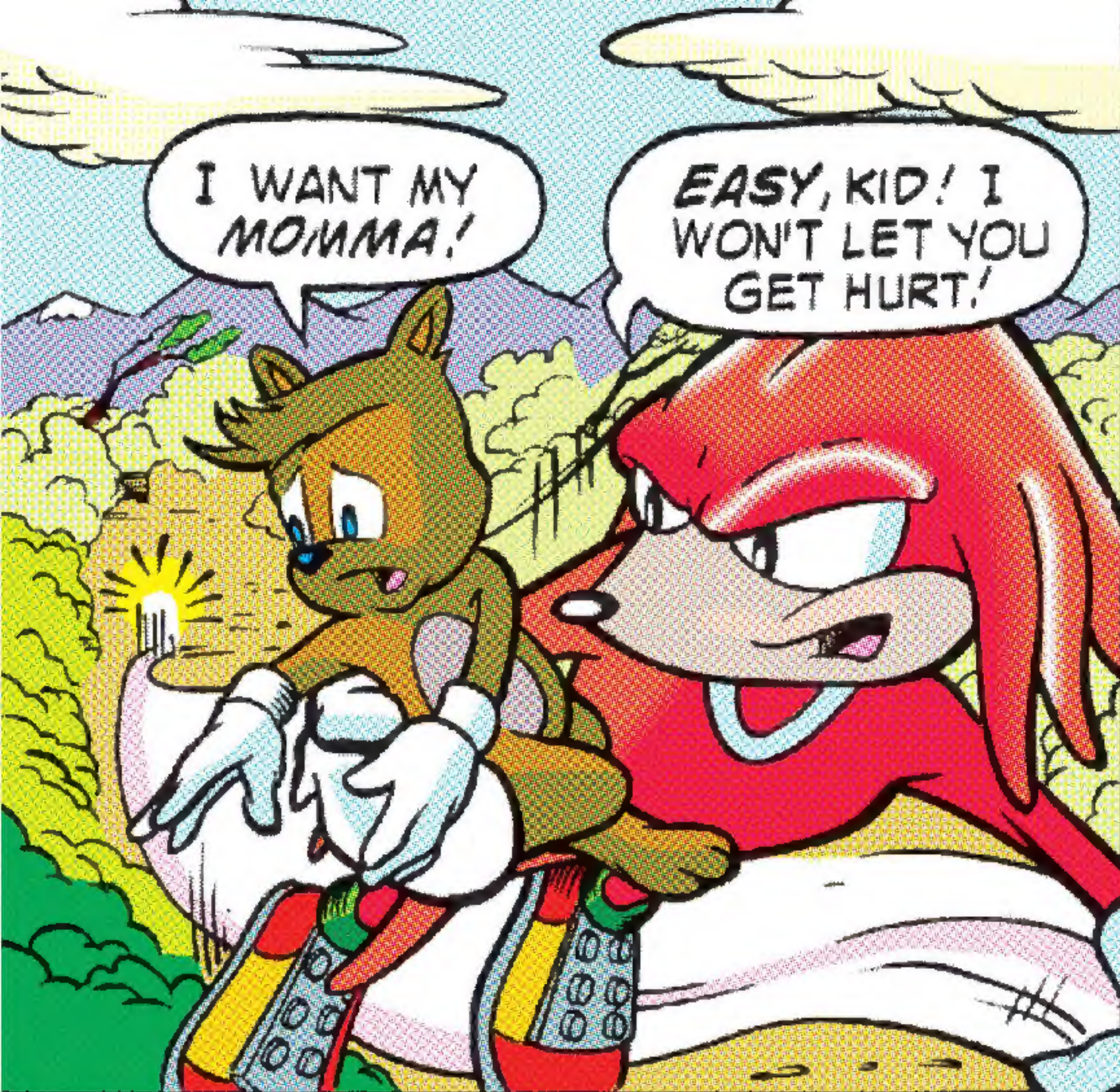
I'M GOING TO GET YOU!

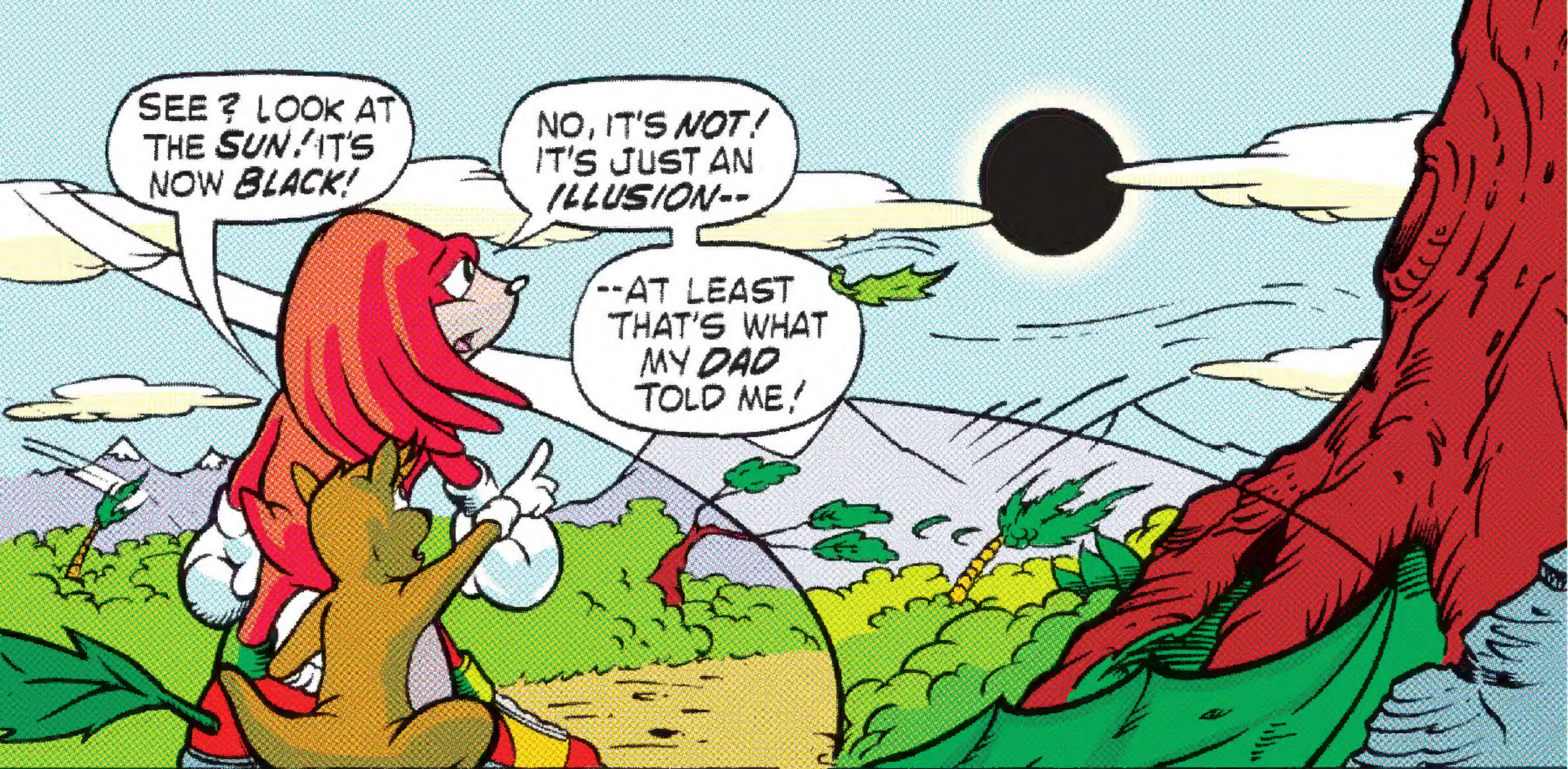


SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™

IN
**LORD OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND**



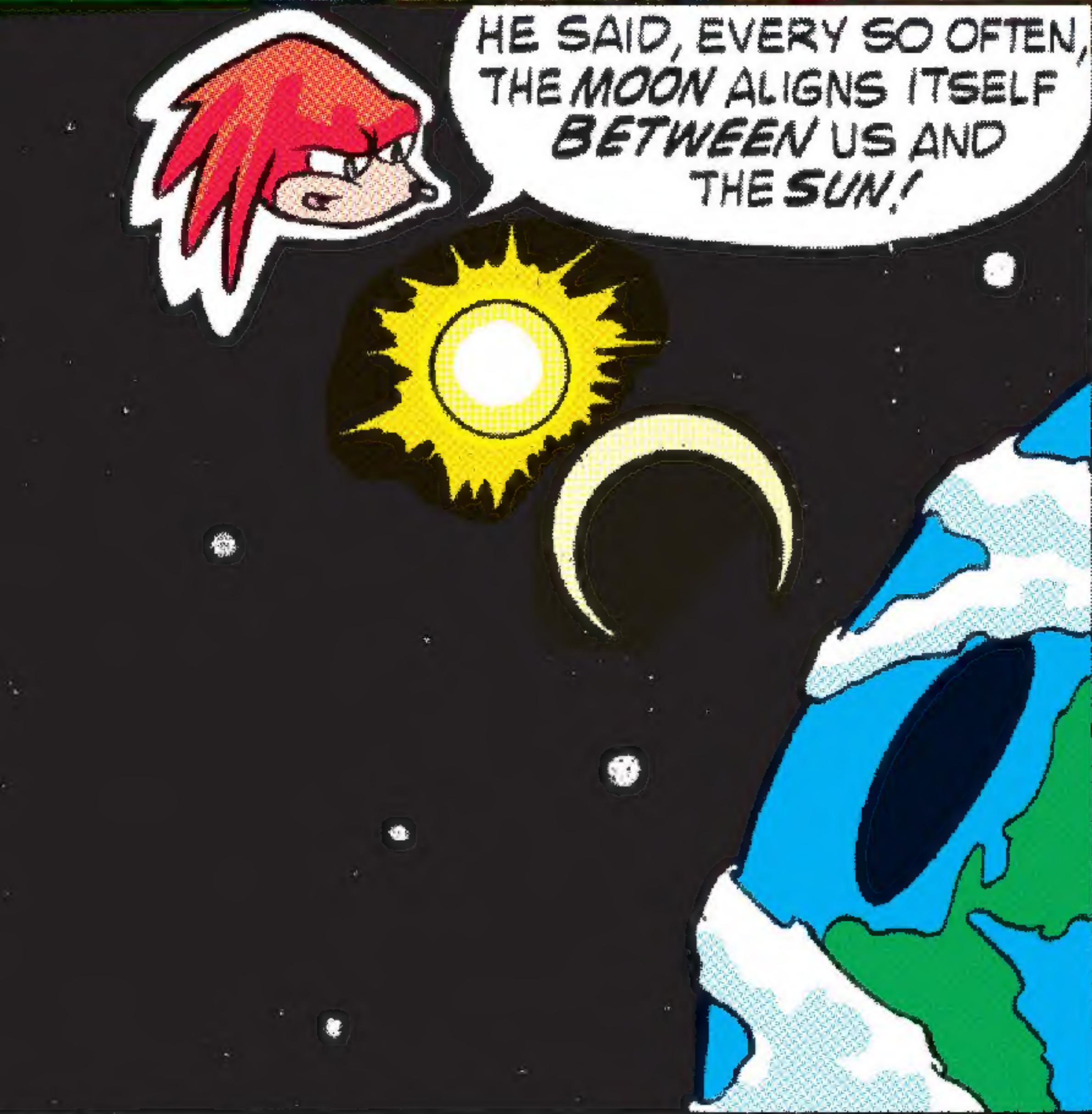




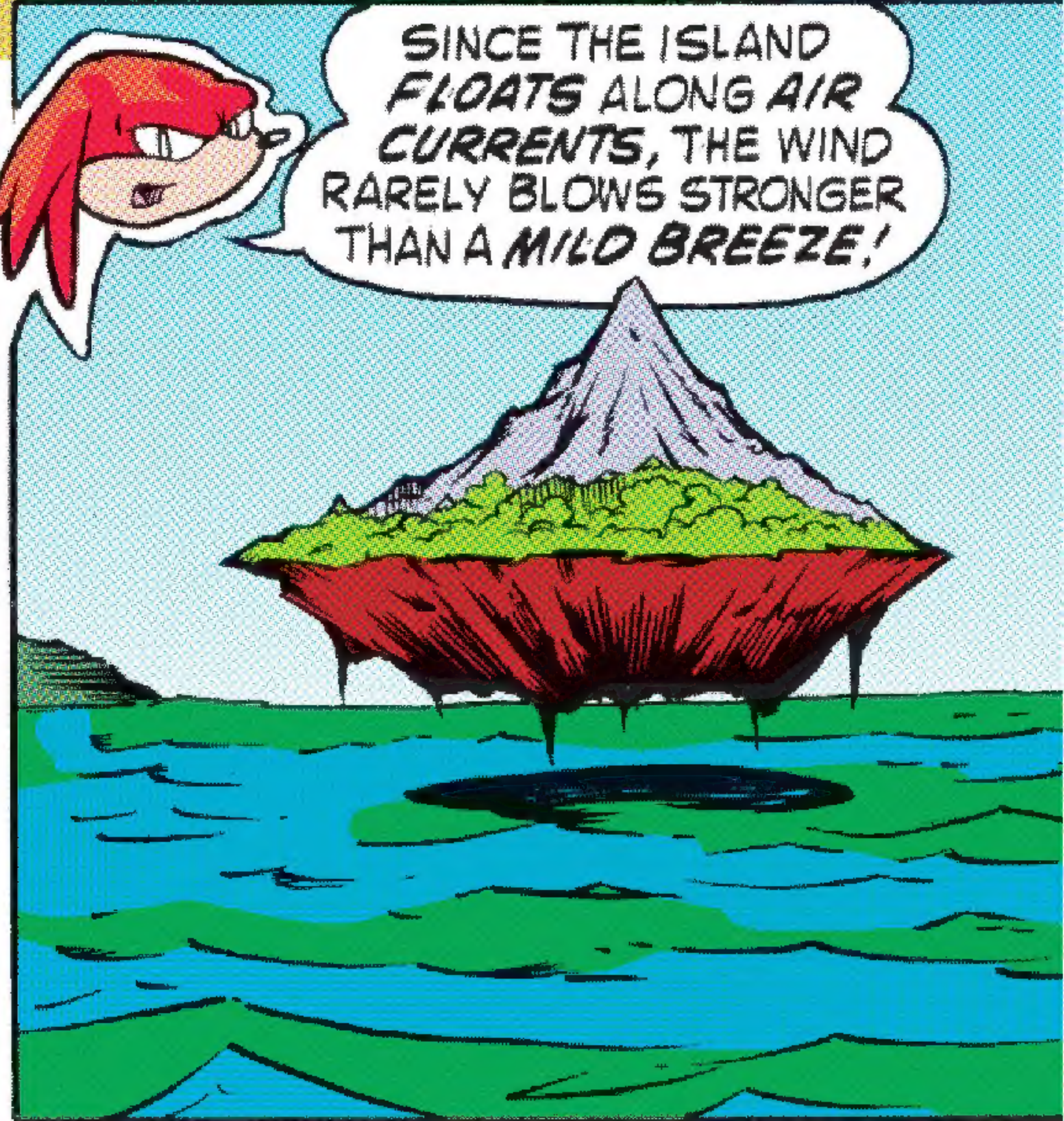
SEE ? LOOK AT THE **SUN**! IT'S NOW **BLACK**!

NO, IT'S **NOT**! IT'S JUST AN **ILLUSION**--

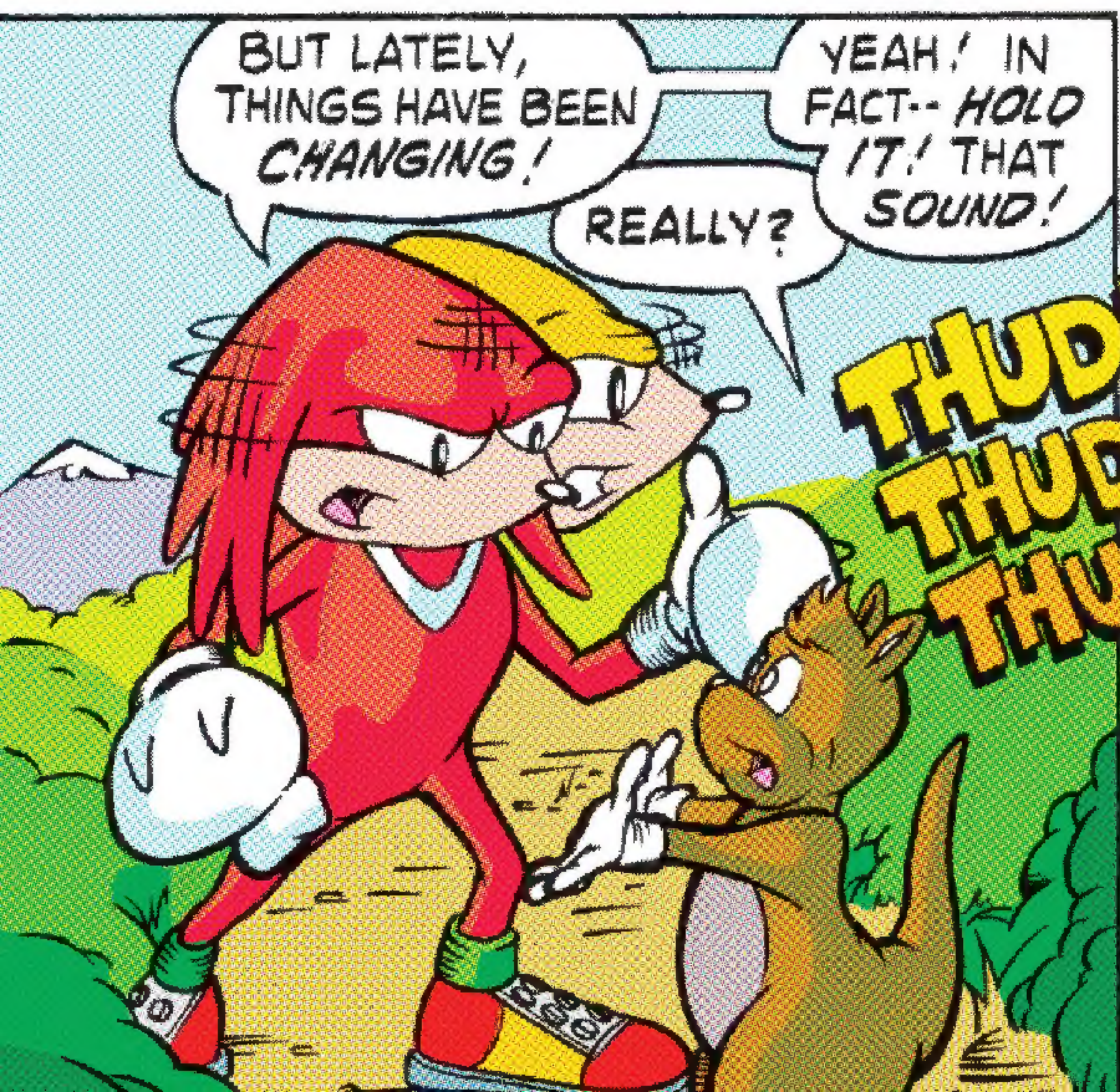
--AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY **DAD** TOLD ME!



HE SAID, EVERY SO OFTEN, THE **MOON** ALIGNS ITSELF **BETWEEN** US AND THE **SUN**!



SINCE THE ISLAND **FLOATS** ALONG **AIR CURRENTS**, THE WIND RARELY BLOWS STRONGER THAN A **MILD BREEZE**!



BUT LATELY, THINGS HAVE BEEN **CHANGING**!

REALLY?

YEAH! IN FACT-- **HOLD IT!** THAT **SOUND**!

THUD!
THUD!
THUD!



LET'S GET TO **SAFETY**! IT'S A **THUNDERING** HERD OF **DINGOES**!

